

Preview

Valentine's cards, chocolate hearts, inscribed balloons and roses from a French maid are among the ideas for Valentine's Day presents suggested in today's Preview. The 16-page weekly arts and entertainment guide also contains information on films, theatre, music, dance, exhibitions, sport, family outings and broadcasting in Britain, plus the skier Konrad Bartelski's view of the course to tomorrow's men's downhill world championship race.

US agents forecast Shah's fall

Documents seized from the American Embassy in Tehran and published by the Iranians show that American diplomats and intelligence agents accurately assessed the situation in the last stages of the Shah's regime. Doubts over the regime's stability appeared in secret reports two years before the revolution.

Yard to restore lost £5,000

Scotland Yard is to pay £5,443, plus £1,670 in interest, to a former prisoner after conceding he had been lost. No disciplinary action is to be taken.

Amend schools Act, MPs say

The Education Act, 1944, should be amended to give the Secretary of State powers to intervene when a local authority appears to be failing to provide a nationally agreed level of education, the Commons Select Committee for Education, Science and The Arts says.

Clash on mental patients' rights

A Nurses' union and a mental health charity clashed over a case before the European Commission of Human Rights in Strasbourg yesterday in which the Government is accused of denying mental patients' rights.

Mubarak firm on Palestinians

President Mubarak of Egypt has underlined his deep differences with Israel on the Palestinian problem. After talks with President Reagan in Washington, he said the Palestinians had a right to self-determination and to function as a national entity.

Speaker's ban

Referring to the use in the Commons of a four-letter word, Mr George Thomas said: "As long as I am Speaker, I shall consider that an unparliamentary expression. None of us would use it in our homes. I hope this House can maintain a better example to the country."

Rape therapy

Women who have been attacked sexually have volunteered to meet rapists in Maidstone prison, Kent, so that they can better understand the serious consequences of their crime.

World Cup talks

Mr Neil Macfarlane, the Minister for Sport, will see Spanish Government officials in Madrid today to discuss the possibility of footballism during the World Cup finals this summer.

Alliance vote

The social democrats and the Liberals have announced they will vote with the Government on next Monday's second reading of the Employment Bill.

Royal tribute

Tomorrow is the thirtieth anniversary of the Queen's accession to the Throne. In tomorrow's Times Sir Harold Wilson, who served Her Majesty as Prime Minister during four administrations, pays a personal tribute.

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Letters: On Civil Service pay, from Mr Bernard Gottlieb, and others; Alliance leadership, from Lord Tordoff; Ulster, from Mr William McDowell.

Features pages 10, 12

David Watt assesses the SDP leadership contest; how President Mubarak sets the new Cairo style; the statistical triumph of England's cricket tour of India; Professor Robin Morris says British graduates are the best value for money in the world.

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Professor F. T. C. Carter, Mr Sigmund Pollitzer.

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Defiant Pym to repeat warnings on economy

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Mr Francis Pym, who was severely criticised in private by the Prime Minister for a speech on Monday which also considered too pessimistic, believes that he was right to speak as he did and means to do so again. He has told Conservative MPs, most of whom agree with him, it is vital that the chances of early economic recovery are not overplayed by ministers.

His own belief is that expectations in the party and the country are too high at a time when there is world recession and low output and continuing long-established over-inflation at home.

Mr Pym, Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Commons, is also in charge of co-ordinating Government information, and he thinks that the general impression given by his colleagues in the Government in recent speeches has been that the country's economic health is improving faster than in fact it is. He has asked for speeches to be more balanced.

The opposite view, held by some people in industry and the Treasury, is that the restoration of confidence would itself be of economic benefit and that every sign of recovery must be trumpeted. This belief has certainly been reflected in many recent speeches from Mr Margaret Thatcher, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and others.

Mr Pym's offence, in the Prime Minister's eyes, was that his Monday speech was too sombre. He said living standards could only fall in the short run, but that in some time to come we would face a struggle just to hold on to something like our present living standards. There could be no early return to full or nearly full employment, he said.

Asked next day by Mr Michael Foot about "this remarkable speech", the Prime Minister said it was excellent, and quoted the most cheerful parts he could find. But Mrs Thatcher's private comments, as reported in the Downing Street staff were different. She did not think much of the speech, it was out of line with what Treasury ministers had been saying and contained unfortunate sentences.

Up to last night, however, these decided and critical

views, although deliberately made public and duly passed on by political reporters, had been conveyed to Mr Pym directly. Nor when the two met at yesterday's Cabinet meeting was there any hint of the Prime Minister's displeasure.

But Mr Pym, who reads the newspapers, yesterday showed his resentment of the accusation of pessimism which it was made by the Prime Minister or in her name. He regards himself as a realist. He has pointed out to friends that he has made speeches in similar vein at the Conservative Party conference and elsewhere.

He believes that the Conservatives have a better chance than any other party of forming the next Government, but not if they mislead the country and raise hopes too high.

He is strikingly sure of his ground and is pleased at the prospect that his speech and the Prime Minister's response to it may have the effect of bringing into the public arena the question which he thinks of major importance: how the country can adjust to the prospect of long-term high unemployment.

Last night Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales, joined in the debate, saying that Mr Pym had caused a sensation by proclaiming a few home truths. It was considered amusing for a Cabinet Minister to say that living standards might fall and that many things were outside the control of governments.

Mr Edwards said that Mr Pym had been criticised for a kind of unrealistic expectation that was aroused when Mr Peter Shore, Opposition spokesman on the economy, suggested in the Commons that the Government might borrow £5,000m to replace the economy without forcing interest rates up.

Mr Edwards also confessed to increasing optimism; he saw increasing signs of a breakthrough and the return to industrial production was an encouraging sign that recovery had begun.

"Though we are living through a desperately difficult period in which living standards will certainly fall and in which people's false expectations will be dashed, we have begun to put our house in order and we will emerge from this recession into a more prosperous world just as we have done in the past," he said.

example, likes to point out that it took the United States a century before it ratified the 1925 Geneva protocol banning the use of chemical agents in warfare. (This protocol forbids first use of such weapons, but not their production or stockpiling.)

President Nixon ended the production of chemical weapons in America in 1969, although large stockpiles have been retained both there and in Europe. Despite that decision small amounts of money were allocated for research and development during the subsequent decade.

Last year the chemical weapons budget doubled to \$455m (£245m) and President Reagan is expected to ask for almost twice that amount, \$810m, for 1983. According to officials the Administration has projected a budget of \$1,400m for such weapons by 1984.

Congress has already voted \$23m for a binary weapon plant at Pine Bluff in Arkansas. But American officials have assured NATO that construction of that factory does not commit the President to authorize actual production of weapons.

Binary chemical weapons are so named because there are two primary ingredients of the nerve gas which are kept separate, and therefore safe, until use. The two chemicals become lethal when they are mixed in-flight in an artillery shell or bomb.

The gas comes in two forms. One, called G5, is colourless and odourless and is lethal within a minute when inhaled. The other, called VX, is similar but hangs in the atmosphere for days to deny an area to enemy troops. Both kill by paralysis.

The justification for going ahead with the production of new chemical weapons is that they are needed to deter Soviet use of such weapons in Western Europe. It is also argued they are safer to handle than existing premixed chemical weapons, which are beginning to deteriorate.

US defence cost, page 8



Train of thought: Lord McCarthy at Aslef headquarters with Mr Alan Meale, personal secretary to Mr Raymond Buckton, the union's general secretary.

'Fight to death' on railways

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

Hopes that the train drivers' union could be persuaded to give evidence to the committee of inquiry into the rail dispute were dashed last night when British Rail and its potential unions rejected a formula to gain the footplate men's co-operation.

The Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen told Lord McCarthy, chairman of the inquiry, that it would only accept if British Rail made a 3 per cent payment and the inquiry discussed ways of getting the dispute back into the industry's negotiating machinery.

Some industry sources were predicting that the dispute could go on for a long time. "It's now a fight to the death," one said.

Earlier attempts had been made to persuade the train drivers' union to co-operate with an inquiry into

the rail dispute which yesterday closed the network for the twelfth time in four weeks.

Lord McCarthy, the inquiry chairman, had spent two hours with the seven executive members of Aslef who repeated that they were not prepared to give evidence to the inquiry under the current terms of reference.

Lord McCarthy last night reported that view to two colleagues on the committee and officials of the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service, which called the inquiry.

He then called British Rail, the National Union of Railwaymen and the Transport Salaried Staffs' Association, who have all agreed to attend the inquiry to the Aslef offices to explain the Aslef position.

Aslef objects to the inclusion in the terms of reference of the introduction of the 35-

hour working week and the productivity understanding on flexible rostering.

Lord McCarthy will have to move quickly if he is to get the inquiry established because the Aslef executives will be breaking up soon after lunch-time today with members returning to their regions.

Lord McCarthy said after his meeting with the executive: "We are all extremely conscious of the need to make progress and move as swiftly as we can, but we want to get it right."

He apparently told the executive that he was not there to pressure them into joining the inquiry but to hear in detail why the union had decided against co-operating.

British Rail again failed to run a service from Aylesbury to Marylebone, London, because yesterday the NUR driver expected to take out the first

train did not turn up. Aslef had mounted a picket at Aylesbury in case any NUR members attempted to take trains out.

Attempts to run a limited service in the Rhondda Valley were also unsuccessful when NUR drivers at the Treherbert depot, Mid-Glamorgan, refused to cross Aslef picket lines.

The British Railways Board yesterday put off any decision on action against Aslef while there was still hope that the inquiry would get off the ground. British Rail will attempt to run a service on days when Aslef is not on strike although that may be difficult next week with the union planning to hold stoppages on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday. One option is for the board to suspend the 20,000 train drivers on Wednesday because a reasonable service will be impossible.

BR nearly broke, page 2

£10m riots claim by De Lorean

By Tim Jones

The Northern Ireland Office is investigating a claim for more than £10m in compensation for riot damage from Mr John De Lorean, whose Belfast-based car manufacturing operation, funded by more than £80m of British Government money, is apparently suffering on the rock of the American recession.

The company, conceived by Mr De Lorean to build a "dream car" for the American market, has already received £424,000 compensation out of a claim for £514,000 for fire damage caused to buildings at the plant last May when Republican rioting in West Belfast exploded after the death of Bobby Sands, the hunger striker.

The latest claim, also connected with that night of violence, is understood to relate in part to damage caused by the destruction of company records relating to potential customers plus request for compensation for loss of production.

Interviewed by The Times in New York earlier this week, Mr De Lorean said he had made a serious mistake in launching his company in Belfast.

"We had a terrible time producing management team because Englishmen would not work there. We grossly underestimated the magnitude of the problem," he said.

Company premises had been fire-bombed 140 times and company executives had been shot at by snipers many times.

It is understood that the police have no record of any complaint from a company executive complaining of having been shot at, and it appears that police records show that the company was fire-bombed on only two occasions.

This does not mean that Mr De Lorean is wrong in his assessment for it may be that during the two attacks 140 petrol bombs were thrown towards the plant.

The factory is in a neutral zone between the Protestant and Roman Catholic areas and it is entirely feasible that during the tense period of the hunger strike shots exchanged between the two communities passed over the plant.

During that period more than 20,000 petrol bombs were thrown in Belfast alone.

The company said last night that 1,100 of its 2,500 workers have been told their jobs finish next Friday. Their chances of finding skilled work are slim. Other large employers in the province such as Shorrock, Marles and Hawland and Wolf are shedding jobs because of the recession.

The loss of De Lorean jobs is a massive blow to an economy which is already precarious.

Lucas Aerospace to shed 1,050 jobs

By Business News Staff

The fabrications division of Lucas Aerospace in Burnley, part of the Lucas Industries group, is to make 1,050 of its 2,800 workers redundant in May.

The company blames the world recession and cuts in defence spending which has hit the aerospace industry by reducing forward orders.

The factory's biggest customer is Rolls-Royce for whom it makes components for the RB-211 engine used on Boeing 747 and Lockheed TriStar airliners.

Burnley also makes parts for the Rolls-Royce RB-199, which are used on Tornados military aircraft flown by the Italian, West German and British air forces, which have all suffered cuts in defence spending.

A statement issued by the company yesterday said: "In the recent past the company has been actively seeking to widen its markets and while a number of these projects offer potential for the future they provide no answer to the immediate problems. Further, any new contracts will have to be won against fierce international competition."

Discussions are being held with trade union representatives to achieve the cuts by

voluntary redundancy and early retirement.

Mr Philip Asquith, chairman of the Lucas shop stewards committee, said: "We have campaigned for many years in the past decade against redundancies, and won each time. We shall continue to campaign again."

We do not intend Burnley to become another ghost town in east Lancashire. Lucas made £6m profit over the last two years, and this should have been used to help us over the lean times."

In the year to last July, Lucas Industries lost £21.4m before tax compared with profits of £41m in 1980. But the second-half showed pretax profits of £4m after charging redundancy and closure costs of £19.2, so indicating that the worst of the cutbacks were over.

There has been an upturn on the vehicle equipment side, which bore all the closure costs last year and lost £45.5m, so it was thought that the group could make about £50m this year.

Lucas shed 10,267 jobs last year reducing the workforce to 53,700. Over the year the group's debt rose 71 per cent.

Power men reject 7% pay offer

Leaders of Britain's 92,000 power workers rejected a 7 per cent pay increase yesterday.

The offer, from the Electricity Council, was said to be worth about 51 per cent on pay, with the remainder coming in the form of a 10 per cent rise on payments for shift and unsocial hours.

The industry's manual workers have put in a claim for a 12 per cent pay rise with improvements in holidays, a cut in the present 37-hour working week, extra pay for long service and earlier retirement.

But the claim, which matched the rate of inflation, is now likely to be aimed at the miners' 9.3 per cent settlement.

Mr John Edmunds, General and Municipal Workers' national energy officer and secretary of the union's negotiating team, said: "The offer was a long argument about financial pressures on the electricity industry and the substantial productivity improvements our members have made over the last 10 years."

"The Electricity Council's offer is no more than an opening shot and leaves us a long way short of a settlement."

The next full meeting of two sides will be on March 4.

Surprise at MSC job switch

By Tony Samstag

The Manpower Services Commission has a new chairman to the surprise of both sides of industry. The appointment of Mr David Young, a former adviser to Sir Keith Joseph, is being widely interpreted as meaning that his popular predecessor, Sir Richard O'Brien, whose present term of office ends in April, has been dismissed.

Mr Len Murray, TUC general secretary, said last night that Sir Richard would be missed and that the Manpower Services Commission can only succeed with a chairman who has those same qualities.

A spokesman for the Confederation of British Industry would say only that the appointment is a matter for the minister—Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment—and was his prerogative.

Privately, however, there was concern that the appointment of Mr Young, who is listed in the 1981 Who's Who as director of the Centre for Policy Studies from 1979, was hardly a portent of a bright future for the commission.

A spokesman for the Department of Employment group of the Society of Civil and Public Servants, which represents staff in the MSC, said: "Sir Richard has clearly been too



Mr David Young: Solicitor and businessman

outspoken about the unemployment crisis and about government cuts in training and services for the unemployed.

The Government obviously resents him having spoken the truth and prefers to have a yes-man running the MSC.

Some people were also unhappy that there had been no consultation on the appointment and that Sir Richard's age—he will be 62 next week—

was being cited as one reason for his replacement by Mr Young, who is 49.

Mr Young, a solicitor, has been an executive with Great Universal Stores and chairman of a property company. He was appointed an industrial adviser at the Department of Industry in 1979 and is special adviser to Mr Patrick Jenkin, the present Secretary of State for Industry.

Smoking ban hotel banished by RAC

By Annabel Ferriman

A hotel has been refused a listing in the Royal Automobile Club's hotel guide because it caters only for non-smokers.

The RAC, which lists hotels refusing to take dogs or children, says it cannot accept non-smoking hotels because many of its members smoke.

The Automobile Association objected to the hotel partly because it refused admission to smokers but also because it served only wholefoods—meat, fish, vegetables, eggs and bread with no artificial colourings or preservatives.

The AA have, however, reluctantly agreed to inspect it because in third objection, that the hotel had fewer than 12 rooms, had not stopped it listing two other hotels in the same town.

The Leathurst Private Hotel in Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex, has been owned and run since October by Mr Arthur Hoffman, an accountant, and his wife, Janet, a trained nurse.

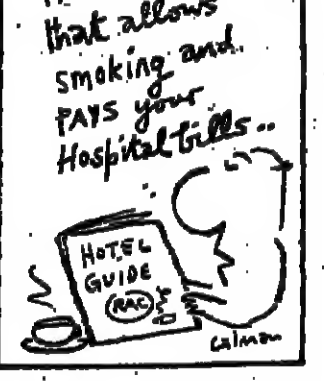
Mrs Hoffman worked as a night sister at the Royal Marsden Hospital, Surrey, one of Britain's leading cancer hospitals, and her experiences as a nurse made her a convinced non-smoker.

She persuaded her husband when they married to give up his 60 cigarettes a day which he had been smoking for 40 years, and both of them strongly dislike the smell of smoke.

Mr Hoffman is incensed by the attitude of the RAC. They are discriminatory, every non-smoker in the country. Up to now, men and women have had to put up with someone next to them puffing pipes and cigars. Now they have the chance of not having to do so, but the RAC will not hear about it.

The RAC's letter says: "The report indicates that Leathurst Hotel meets all our requirements for listing apart from the restriction on the acceptance of guests who are smokers."

Here's a Hotel that allows smoking and pays your hospital bills...



The Royal Automobile Club cannot accept a hotel for listing or appointment which allows smoking, because its guests as this would preclude its use by many of our members who are smokers."

A spokesman said yesterday that the RAC could not include the hotel because it did not have a symbol which denoted a non-smoking hotel.

Britain now has at least 15 non-smoking hotels, according to the anti-smoking group Action on Smoking and Health (ASH), some with such uncompromising names as the Haven for Non-Smokers (Newquay, Cornwall) and the Non-Smokers Guest House (Keswick, Cumbria).

There are at least four public houses with no-smoking rules, including one opened in Enfield, north London, in September 1980, the George Young, former Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Health and Social Security, who was keen to promote the cause of non-smokers.

Others are situated at Andover, Hampshire; Rochdale, Lancashire, and Appleton, Yorkshire.

The Good Food Guide, which appears in March, will have a three-page section on restaurants which discourage smoking and the British Tourist Authority has symbols for restaurants with no-smoking areas.

A spokesman for ASH said: "The RAC should create an easily recognisable symbol to use in its guidebook rather than claim it has no symbol and so cannot list the guest house."

Now that a majority of adults in the United Kingdom no longer smoke cigarettes, organizations like the RAC should respond to this change appropriately.

The AA has done so. Two insurance companies, Sun Life and Guardian Royal Exchange, both have life insurance schemes with preferential premiums for non-smokers; these were initiated by the AA's insurance brokers.

To non-smokers the RAC's policy does seem inconsistent. Perhaps it subscribes to the W. C. Fields sentiment: "Any hotel that hates dogs and children cannot be all bad."

Kagan back

Lord Kagan, the founder and chairman of Gannex-Kagan Textiles, who recently completed a prison sentence, signed the roll and took his seat again in the House of Lords, yesterday.

Tougher powers on local education urged by MPs

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

The Education Act 1944 should be amended to give the Secretary of State clear powers to intervene where a local authority appears to be failing to provide a nationally agreed, guaranteed basic level of educational provision, the Commons Select Committee for Education, Science and the Arts says in its report on secondary school curriculum and examinations.

The report, due to be published on February 16, points out that at present there is no definition of the basic statutory provision that a local authority must make in order to comply with its duty under Section 8 of the Act, to offer sufficient free education, suited to their age, ability and aptitudes, for all children of school age in its area.

The Secretary of State already had powers under Sections 68 and 69 of the Act to give directions to local authorities where he was satisfied that they had acted unreasonably "in respect of a power or duty, or where they were defaulting on any duty, the report says."

However, the Department of Education and Science seemed to view those sections as dangerously punitive measures, difficult to enforce in the courts, and liable to be used only in the last resort.

But the committee says: "We see, rather, these sections of the 1944 Act as being part of the means by which the Secretary of State may dis-

charge his duty 'to promote the education of the people' in the words of Section 1 of the Act. We also believe that these provisions in the Act were designed precisely to avoid the necessity of parents taking their problems to the courts."

The committee does not believe the department's interpretation of the Act is correct. But, to avoid any doubt, it recommends the Act should be amended in such a way to give the Secretary of State clear powers to intervene when a nationally agreed provision appears to be at risk.

The committee believes that the HMI inspectors for Schools should decide whether the education provided by a local authority is inadequate, and that the onus should be on the Secretary of State to say whether he does not accept the validity of such judgments in respect of his own responsibilities under the Act.

It recommends that legislation be introduced to put the Secretary of State's responsibility for the curriculum on that basis.

The committee also calls for HMI to be made much more independent of central government. To that end, it recommends that financial provision for HMI be taken out of the Department of Education and Science budget and made the responsibility of the senior civil servant, and that the decision as to whether or not any report by HMI on national

levels of provision and quality should be published should rest with the senior civil servant, and not with the Secretary of State as at present.

The Government announced in the Commons on Wednesday that it had decided to publish HMI's latest report on the state of the curriculum in local authorities spending on educational provision. The report is expected to be ready in the next few weeks.

The aliphary committee, chaired by Mr. Christopher Price, Labour MP for Lewisham, West, said it had resigned the temptation, urged on it by some witnesses, to regard financial provision as the root of most of the difficulties facing schools. Difficulties were also caused by the falling number of pupils and unsuitably qualified teachers.

Turning to the loss of teaching jobs that will occur over the next few years, the committee echoes Sir Keith Joseph's words, later withdrawn, when it says that the contraction should be achieved as far as possible by getting rid of the "less effective" teachers.

It calls on the Government in conjunction with local authorities to draw up national criteria to enable authorities to "identify individual teachers for redundancy on the grounds of their importance for preserving the curriculum and their effectiveness as teachers."



An Army bomb disposal expert showing the 1,000 lb bomb defused in the border village of Camlough, south Armagh. An aerial photograph behind him shows the area which would have been affected had it exploded.

Rail strikes: What the pickets say

BR nearly broke

By Michael Bailey, Transport Correspondent

Intensification of the strike action by 1983, the Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen next week is expected to worsen British Rail's cash outflow from about £18m to £20m. That leaves only another two weeks before British Rail runs over its short-term borrowing limit of £100m, and Government approval will be needed to extend it.

British Rail will be seeking a meeting with Mr. David Howell, Secretary of State for Transport, to extend borrowing limits in order to pay wages and to keep the business going. The strike is estimated to have cost more than £70m in immediate cash and nearly £100m if longer term effects are taken into account.

Extending the cash limit puts the Cabinet in a difficult position. On the one hand it wants British Rail, in common with other nationalised industries, to stay within external finance limits; on the other it wants the board to face up to the productivity issue in a way that successive governments have been urging it to do for years. The latter view is confirmed by the almost complete isolation of Aslef at present.

In fact, the strike means that there is already no chance of British Rail hitting its 1981-82

external finance limit of £920m or its 1982-83 total of £950m. The limit will therefore have to be eased either by additional grant or by allowing additional borrowing. However, the Government may insist on even tougher cost-cutting measures once the dispute is over than were already envisaged by this year's very tight £950m cash limit.

One obvious early casualty could be electrification of the East Coast main line from London to Newcastle for which British Rail has successfully made a case under the "Waters formula", giving productivity improvements including flexible rostering.

There will also be increased pressure to shut down loss-making services and cut back further on service levels in commuter and inter-city passenger business.

Freight services could be axed also, although one of the mainstays of the industry's income. The dispute is the widespread assurances from British Rail's big freight customers that they want to stick it out and stay with rail. But the strikes have cost the freight business £18m already and will add up to £30m by the end of the year even if the dispute ends now, or £40m if it lasts another fortnight.

With Italian drivers a great exception, worse even than Aslef, other European countries employ flexible rostering for train drivers, the system at the centre of the dispute between British Rail and the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (Aslef).

A survey by The Times of four other European countries showed that France had the most flexible system with train drivers productively employed for between four and nine hours a day in a 39-hour working week.

If a driver works for five hours one day he may work 10 the next to compensate. Aslef has rejected a British Rail proposal for working between seven and nine hours a day in a 39-hour working week. Such a system would be no more efficient and could lead to loss of jobs, the union says.

In West Germany there is also flexible rostering, although drivers work on average eight hours a day, and in Sweden and train drivers spend about two thirds of their time at the controls or preparing their trains.

Although no average can be given for train drivers in Britain, it is not uncommon for

a driver to spend half his eight-hour shift unproductively waiting for the next train. British Rail maintains that flexible rostering would be a step towards improving productivity. The following is an outline of the work pattern for drivers:

Britain: Basic working week of 40 hours, although that will be reduced to 39 if flexible rostering is accepted. Drivers work on average four hours overtime a week for a pay packet of £140. It is hard to estimate how much of an eight-hour shift is spent productively, but it is anywhere between three and six hours on average. There are two unions for rail drivers with about 97 per cent of the 26,000 drivers members of Aslef.

France: 39-hour working week since last Monday. Drivers work no overtime on principle because extra hours on duty compensated with time off. The only exception is eight-hour night shifts. Rosters are usually worked out four to six months in advance and signed every three months. In theory efficient rostering means the driver is busy most of his shift.

West Germany: 40-hour working week. The maximum is 55 hours and that would be

compensated with time off in other weeks. Most drivers work an eight-hour day with a maximum of 12 hours. Drivers belong to three unions. Trains which travel at speeds exceeding 140kph have two drivers. Otherwise one man in cab.

Switzerland: 44-hour working week. There is very little overtime, except in exceptional circumstances. If a driver works more than 10 hours a day he is compensated with time off and extra pay. The maximum overtime for which there is payment is 150 hours a year. Drivers spend about two-thirds of their time productively.

Italy: The railway workers' union makes no secret of low productivity. All railway workers are supposed to work a 40-hour week. An engine driver's average week, however, is under 30 hours because of idleness. In engineering shops, Lombardina's ban on two consecutive night shifts and a ban of four and a half hours at the controls for a single journey and eight and three-quarter hours for a round journey. Overtime for train drivers is comparatively rare. An engine driver spends an average of two hours a day at the controls.

Behind the attack is the far-left, angry at Mr. Michael Foot, the Shadow Cabinet and Labour MPs for their reluctance to give outright support to the train drivers in dispute with British Rail.

Although Labour's national executive committee passed a resolution last week backing the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, the Parliamentary Labour Party agreed with a shadow cabinet proposal not to press for a debate on the code of practice which local authorities might apply to encourage improvement in conditions.

Mr. Fowler also announced increased grants to voluntary organisations to help the elderly. Already £300,000 had been allocated this year, and there would now be an additional £100,000 to organisations, such as Age Concern, the Centre for Policy on Ageing, and the National Council on Voluntary Organisations.

Two other proposals announced by Mr. Fowler were arrangements to improve financial and policy accountability in the NHS and additional resources of £10m planned for next year for joint financing of various projects by the NHS and voluntary organisations.

Parliamentary report, page 6 Frank Johnson, back page

END OF LINE FOR DREADNOUGHT
HMS Dreadnought, Britain's oldest nuclear-powered submarine, will be taken out of service later this year after 20 years with the fleet (Henry Samuels writes).

The 4,000-ton submarine is at Chatham dockyard for work on its nuclear reactor's cooling system.

Freedom to wed for step-parents sought

By George Clark

Lord Lloyd of Kilgerran, a Liberal peer, yesterday introduced a Bill in the Lords which would make it unnecessary for couples who stand in the relationship of step-parents and step-children to go through the expensive procedure of obtaining an Act of Parliament to authorise their marriages.

Two such applications for personal Bills are before the Lords and are due for examination by the Personal Bills Committee (chairman, Lord Aberdare) on February 16. In the past couples who have been compelled to apply for such Bills have said they cost up to £1,000 each.

Bills are necessary because such marriages are deemed by what are known as the "prohibited degrees" deriving in ecclesiastical law from the Book of Leviticus, set out in the Marriage Act 1949. The couples need separate Acts of Parliament to exempt them from the law.

Lord Lloyd, who is a barrister, has wide support for his proposed Bill which would enable couples to apply for leave to marry to the Family Division of the High Court or to any county court in the jurisdiction of which either party to the marriage resides.

Before granting leave to marry, the court would have to be satisfied on three counts: that neither party had by his or her conduct caused or contri-

buted to the cause of a dissolution of any previous marriage of the other party; that at no time prior to the application had the parties lived together in a family during the minority of the stepchild; and that the intended marriage is for the welfare of the parties concerned.

The court would also have to take account of various circumstances, including the age of the parties; the income-earning capacity, property and other financial interests of the parties; the financial needs and obligations of the parties after marriage; and the physical or mental disability of either party.

A petition for another Bill that is to come before the Lords committee concerns a man's appeal to be declared the father of an illegitimate child, a boy aged 6. His claim has been the subject of previous legal proceedings.

Lord Havers of Hawley, a Conservative peer, said yesterday that there was a danger that personal Bills of this kind could be used to get publicity.

He said he would write to the Lords Procedure Committee and the authorities of the House to see if some safeguards could be introduced.

The purpose of the committee proceedings in February will be to decide whether the Bills should be allowed to proceed. Each Bill, if it goes ahead, will need a sponsor in both Houses.

Livingstone wants to end truce

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Labour Party's uneasy peace was jolted sharply yesterday with a demand from the far-left that the Bishop's Stortford truce should be repudiated.

Mr. Kenneth Livingstone, leader of the Greater London Council, and Mr. Ted Knight, leader of Lambeth council, in a front-page statement in the Labour Herald, of which they are editors, said the Bishop's Stortford truce was "a compromise which was justifiably worrying the party's rank and file and had added to confusion among the left."

"Whatever agreement was reached, there is no authority or validity in the truce. There can be no compromise with the right-wing on questions of policy or the whereabouts which were started by the leadership last year."

Behind the attack is the far-left, angry at Mr. Michael Foot, the Shadow Cabinet and Labour MPs for their reluctance to give outright support to the train drivers in dispute with British Rail.

Although Labour's national executive committee passed a resolution last week backing the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, the Parliamentary Labour Party agreed with a shadow cabinet proposal not to press for a debate on the code of practice which local authorities might apply to encourage improvement in conditions.

Mr. Fowler also announced increased grants to voluntary organisations to help the elderly. Already £300,000 had been allocated this year, and there would now be an additional £100,000 to organisations, such as Age Concern, the Centre for Policy on Ageing, and the National Council on Voluntary Organisations.

Two other proposals announced by Mr. Fowler were arrangements to improve financial and policy accountability in the NHS and additional resources of £10m planned for next year for joint financing of various projects by the NHS and voluntary organisations.

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END OF LINE FOR DREADNOUGHT
HMS Dreadnought, Britain's oldest nuclear-powered submarine, will be taken out of service later this year after 20 years with the fleet (Henry Samuels writes).

The 4,000-ton submarine is at Chatham dockyard for work on its nuclear reactor's cooling system.

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Journalists in jobs plea

By Our Labour Staff

The National Union of Journalists has asked Mr. Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, to investigate whether The Newspapers Act in breach of employment protection legislation in its plans to reduce the editorial staffs of The Times and The Sunday Times.

Mr. Kenneth Ashton, general secretary, writes to the minister, claiming that the company did not inform the union of the impending cuts of 35 journalists' jobs on the two newspapers, which he believes could be a breach of the Employment Protection Act, 1975.

A spokesman for the company said Mr. Gerald Long, managing director of TNU, would be replying to a letter he had received from Mr. Ashton, after taking advice on various legal questions. He said the company was not involved in a redundancy programme for journalists but the editors of the two newspapers had been asked to assess their staffing needs.

The company did not believe it had an obligation to consult the union because there was

State homes project for elderly

By Our Parliamentary Correspondent

The first experiment in State-run nursing homes for the elderly was announced yesterday by Mr. Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, as part of a new initiative to move elderly people out of long-stay geriatric wards into small local units so that they can be close to family and friends.

As a start, three homes will be established, at Fleetwood, Portsmouth and Sheffield, at a cost of £1.1m with an annual running cost of £720,000. Two of the homes will open in the next 18 months and the third shortly afterwards.

Each home is expected to house about 30 old people and will be run as part of the National Health Service. They will be financed jointly by local authorities and the Department of Health.

The experimental homes are part of a package of more Government help for the elderly. Other proposals include a new voluntary scheme for voluntary and private homes, which is estimated to house about 56,000 people. Mr. Fowler told the Commons yesterday during a debate on pensioners that the care provided in these homes kept pace with the needs of the residents, and the overall pattern of services for old people.

A consultative document would be produced in code of practice which local authorities might apply to encourage improvement in conditions.

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Science report Bent light discovery puzzles scientists

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Astronomers have discovered a third gravitational lens, a place in the universe in which light from a distant galaxy or other object is bent as it passes through a gravitational field. Scientists cannot understand why more have been found.

Although the effect was predicted by Einstein in 1936, it was not observed until 1979. The latest discovery was made by Dr Daniel Weedman of Pennsylvania State University and the University of Arizona. They identified the lens with the 3.6-metre telescope at the Mauna Kea observatory in Hawaii, and confirmed the existence of the phenomenon with the special 16-metre multiple mirror telescope at the Kitt Peak National Observatory, Arizona.

A gravitational lens is recognised by the curious image it leaves on a photograph: a plate recording observations of a small section of the sky. The image shows two distinct but identical objects extremely close together. Doctors Weedman and Weedman found such a pair of images after the camera on the telescope had taken a long exposure of a section of two quasar objects with magnitudes of approximately 19.5 and 21.

A 21st magnitude star is about one million times fainter than one which can be seen unaided by the human eye; on a clear night the eye can see a star as faint as the sixth magnitude.

The explanation for the light from the quasar is split by some other massive object between it and the astronomer. The bent light travels through either side of the gravitational source, reaches the observer from two slightly different directions to give the impression that two objects are present.

In a report to the American Astronomical Society at the weekend, the astronomers express "puzzlement" that the survey technique used to find this object have located over 1,000 quasars, and they would expect the effect of closely watched pairs to be found more often.

To prove conclusively that they have found a gravitational lens, a search is to be made for the material that is causing the gravitational deflection.

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Parliamentary report, page 6 Frank Johnson, back page

QUICK CHANGES AT TOP OF BBC

The BBC's top jobs switch announced last month will be completed after Easter, Sir Ian Trethowan, director-general, said yesterday. Mr. Bill Cotton, deputy managing director, television, becomes immediately director of development and joins the board of management.

From April 13, Mr. Alexander Milne, director-general designate moves to Broadcasting House from the Television Centre. Mr. Richard Francis (managing director, radio), Mr. Aubrey Singer (managing director, television), Mr. Alan Protheroe (assistant director-general), and Mr. Michael Checkland (director of resources, television) take up their new posts on the same date.

CORRECTION
Derek Donnan was a Northern Irishman, not a Scottish international, as stated in a report yesterday.

Overseas selling prices
Australia \$2.25; Bahrain \$2.00; Canada \$2.00; Denmark \$2.00; France \$2.00; Germany \$2.00; Greece \$2.00; Hong Kong \$2.00; India \$2.00; Italy \$2.00; Japan \$2.00; Korea \$2.00; Kuwait \$2.00; Lebanon \$2.00; Libya \$2.00; Luxembourg \$2.00; Malaysia \$2.00; Mexico \$2.00; Netherlands \$2.00; New Zealand \$2.00; Norway \$2.00; Oman \$2.00; Pakistan \$2.00; Peru \$2.00; Qatar \$2.00; Saudi Arabia \$2.00; Singapore \$2.00; South Africa \$2.00; Spain \$2.00; Sweden \$2.00; Switzerland \$2.00; Taiwan \$2.00; Thailand \$2.00; Turkey \$2.00; United Arab Emirates \$2.00; United Kingdom \$2.00; United States \$2.00; Yugoslavia \$2.00.

Moderates: Confident of victory

From Paul Routledge, Labour Editor, Aylesbury

The quiet footsloggers of Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, spoke in defence of the picketing that frustrated British Rail's second attempt to run passenger services to London during yesterday's rail strike.

Still blinking in the concentrated glare of media attention focused on one of the least militant branches of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, they insisted that they would with the drawn-out dispute over flexible rostering.

It is clearly this issue that has brought out the 21 men at Aylesbury, rather than British Rail's refusal to pay a 3 per cent wage rise.

Until this dispute, these Aslef members were, if anything, notorious for their moderation rather than their willingness to take industrial action. They were rebuked by union head office for refusing to join in the TUC "day of action" on May 1, 1980.

Mr. Roy Norrish, 54, a chubby, talkative driver, argued: "I am 100 per cent behind the union on this issue. If they were calling a purely political strike, I would be at work. But this has to do with us. We are the losers." His colleague, Mr. Ernie Little, aged 47, said: "There is no money here; even management admitted that two years ago."



Marylebone yesterday as BR's plan to run strike-breaking trains failed again.

of us if they increase the number of trains."

Train driving from Aylesbury is not the biggest money spinner in the British Rail network. The Aslef branch secretary lives in a council house in Tring, six miles away. His recent pay slips show a maximum take home wage of £139 a week, when extra overtime was available. For a "normal" 48-hour week, including Sunday work, he earns £91 net, and for a flat 40-hour it falls to £78 net.

Mr. Norrish admits: "We do not like this sort of business really. It is not doing us any good. It is just pay that they cannot sit down and agree something because that is how it will end." He is fairly confident that the dispute will be determined in Aslef's favour. "The railway will have to give in," he said.

The Aylesbury drivers harbour no serious misgivings about the way the Aslef leadership is conducting the dispute, and responded readily to the call to put an official picket outside Aylesbury station when the strike-breaking train service plan was first mooted. "This is a closed shop," Mr. Norrish said. "If the union calls a strike, there is no option. We have to come out."

The three drivers who agreed to talk to The Times yesterday all thought there was something more to British Rail's productivity proposals than the existing package of change and they believed that the management would eventually seek split drive, "making us come to work twice a day for one day's pay."

Planned up in the drivers' signing-off office on the platform at Aylesbury is a copy of

literature, should be dispensed at once. The men I spoke to on the picket line at Doncaster railway station were in their forties and fifties, greying, rather tranquil people, the kind of men one is glad to have at the controls of one's express train. Among them one detected a quiet confidence that they were right, the British Railways Board was wrong and a grim determination to prove their point.

They only wanted an all-out strike because it would have meant a short dispute causing least pain to employees, passengers and industry and told their national executive so in a resolution at the outbreak of hostilities.

They gather daily, covering each 24 hours in what is a token picket. Only two footplatens at Doncaster are in the National Union of Railwaymen and they do not try to cross the picket line. The men started picketing in front of the station main entrance but have been moved twice because of complaints about their behaviour which they believe are management inspired. At their third location, surrounded by five feet high rubbish bins, 50 yards from the station entrance, they discuss the latest moves in the dispute, joke among themselves and drink tea provided by NUR colleagues.

From time to time people stop to hand over money in support of the strike. In common with most trade unionists in dispute the Doncaster men are shy about giving their names. One grey-haired man said: "I would have preferred strong action from the outset but I suppose you have to consider the younger end who have

Militants: Prefer all out strike

From Ronald Kershaw, Doncaster

The 340 members of the Doncaster branch of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen never wanted the kind of strike in which they are now taking part. They rarely do things by half in Doncaster and they wanted a full-blooded strike which, they claim, would have ended the dispute a few weeks ago. They are prepared to embark on an all out strike tomorrow if necessary.

Any impression that Doncaster is a hotbed of Trotskyism with young hotheads tearing round distributing militant

Union clash with charity over mental patients

By Lucy Hodges

A dispute flared yesterday between a nurses' union and MIND, the mental health charity, over a case to be heard in Strasbourg today in which the Government again stands accused of denying rights to mental patients.

The Confederation of Health Service Employees (Cohse), which represents hundreds of psychiatric nurses, yesterday accused MIND of making serious threats to mental patients' rights in a letter to the Minister of Health.

Mr Albert Spanswick, the union's general secretary, challenged the charity to retract its statements "otherwise the quality of their care will be open to serious doubt".

The case, which will be heard by the European Commission of Human Rights, concerns the right of mental patients to sue doctors and nurses over detention, brutality or, indeed, anything. At present they are prevented by law from doing so unless they can show that a person acted in bad faith and without reasonable care, and unless they can get the permission of a High Court judge.

MIND hopes to change that. Cohse, the union, however, believes that staff must be protected from violent patients and that Section 141 of the Mental Health Act should not be weakened.

The Government seems to agree with the union and has resisted strong pressure from the charity, which campaigns for patients' rights, to change the law in amending legislation going through Parliament.

Today's case concerns Mr John Ashingdane, a patient who was kept in Broadmoor special hospital for two extra years because if local Cohse branches were refusing or threatening to refuse to nurse patients subject to restriction orders.

They did that because Oakwood hospital in Kent, to which Mr Ashingdane was to be transferred, was short of 50 nurses. However, Mr Ashingdane's doctors said he should not be in Broadmoor so MIND decided to sue.

Because of Section 141 his lawyers were prevented from taking legal action against the Kent Area Health Authority and the Department of Health and Social Security.

The case was eventually settled out of court, with the union agreeing that resources were increased and that he was put in a locked ward.

However, the case against the Government went ahead in Strasbourg, where MIND will be arguing that the United Kingdom is in breach of the European Convention on Human Rights.

The union is objecting to the claim by MIND that the union was operating "a total ban" on the transfer of special hospital patients to local hospitals. Mr Spanswick said yesterday there was never a national ban, simply advice to the effect that when a patient constituted a danger to himself and others because of a lack of resources members should refuse to nurse.

"MIND cannot understand the concern of staff over the possible consequences of admission of patients without sufficient facilities", he said. "In 1980 my union took 126 cases of horrifying violence inflicted upon staff to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board."

Mr Simon Hedditch, an assistant director of MIND, said the union was splitting hairs. "We have always acknowledged the difficult conditions in which nurses work and the effects of understaffing, which was precisely why we were against the sea health authority and the department, and not the union."

Hospital tries the Star Trek technique

From Pearce Wright
Science Editor, Oxford

Followers of television's *Star Trek* programme are used to seeing the doctor on the spaceship *Enterprise* instantly diagnosing some mysterious disease, by discovering a deficiency or excess of the body's chemistry from a hand-held micro-computer with which he scans the patient.

That idea has moved from fiction into fact with the development of a machine which can identify the imbalance of biochemicals in the body without exploratory surgery, blood analysis or, indeed without touching the patient at all.

The apparatus being tested at the Radcliffe hospital, Oxford, weighs ten hundredweight, yet it measures incredibly tiny magnetic fields of individual atoms within separate cells of a particular organ in the body.

Within a minute the Topical Magnetic Resonance machine produces a biochemical assay that is obtained now only from analysing a tissue specimen in a laboratory.

The device is a long way from providing the instant total body chemistry picture achieved in fiction. But it is revealing deficiencies in the tissues of patients suffering from various muscle diseases and provides information to control the treatment of kidney failures, diabetes and thyroid deficiencies.

A more powerful version will be ready by the end of the year to allow examinations of the brain.

They unravelled the structure and function of chemicals involved in different processes at work in parts of the body.

The present machine in clinical use cost about £250,000 and the larger version, for scanning the whole body, about £350,000. The equipment is made by the Oxford Instrument Company.



Peter Jay, chairman of TV/AM which will provide the independent television breakfast service from early 1983, with a model of the studios on the site near the Regent's Canal at Camden Town, London, yesterday.

Murray's pensions plea

By Lorna Bourke

Pension fund managers should invest more money in British industries, Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, said at a pensions conference yesterday.

"The nation's pension funds must bear at least part of the blame for the most rapid period of de-industrialisation in Britain's history," he said. "Since abolition of exchange controls in October 1979 there has been a flood of overseas investment by the major financial institutions. Between 1978 and the first half of 1979, pension funds more than trebled the proportion of their available cash flow invested abroad."

The money is helping Britain's competitors build further on their advantages.

"Pension scheme members, employers, pensioners and indeed the funds themselves all have a common interest in 1979 there has been a flood of overseas investment by the major financial institutions. Between 1978 and the first half of 1979, pension funds more than trebled the proportion of their available cash flow invested abroad."

The Tabbitt Bill

TUC battle lines in disarray

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

One simple test must be applied to the trade union leaders on all sides of the labour movement who have exploded so belligerently about the Government's latest employment-law reforms: can they provide effective opposition?

It is the Cabinet's calculated gamble that they cannot, and that both Mr James Prior's 1980 Employment Act and Mr Norman Tebbit's Bill now embarking on its parliamentary passage will remain on the statute book.

The assumption has so far paid off. The changes have not wrought havoc on the scale of the ill-fated 1971 Industrial Relations Act. There are two main reasons for this: the recession has done most of the work that might otherwise have been entrusted to the law; and the legislation did not offer such a handy lever for opposition as state registration of the unions did under the Heath laws.

The TUC has organized a successful boycott of state funds for secret ballots on industrial action and the election of union leaders. But it has failed to generate any tangible or widespread sense of grievance on the shop floor.

Mr Tebbit's latest set of proposals brought forth a predictable tirade of abuse but few practical proposals to prevent their application. The TUC seeks an extended boycott to take in the suggestion that there should be periodic testing of employees' opinion on existing closed shops and Government-funded ballots on wage offers.

It seems likely that it will succeed in holding the line on this form of non-cooperation; the TUC carthorse is never more successful than when dragging its feet for a purpose. But on the wider political and economic front, the TUC's show of unity is a shaky facade, and it crumbled when put to the test last week.

The mighty Transport and General Workers wants the trade union movement to pull out of the National Economic Development Council and the other myriad tripartite bodies on which TUC representatives sit down with the Government and employers. When the report of the TUC Employment Policy Committee retaining this option went to the full general council five days ago, there was a scene when Mr Len Murray, the general secretary, described pulling out as "irrelevant". Mr Bill Keys, chairman of the committee and leader of the print union Sogat (which has a track record of political strikes against Conservative labour legislation) demurred at insisting on it going into policy pot.

This political response will now be considered, along with various proposals for "national" strikes, when the TUC Employment Committee reconvenes on February 18 to discuss what industrial action may be called in the event of a group of workers coming under threat from the Tebbit laws. The view of Mr David Bassett's General and Municipal Workers' Union and some others is that stoppages should be called right across an industry in response to such "attacks". They want the TUC to have some coordination responsibility in calling such disputes. Congress House staff are unhappy at this prospect, arguing that TUC central funds could be put at risk.

There is also an organizational consideration. It would probably not be beyond the bounds of rank-and-file militancy for the TGWU to deliver a national dock strike if there is any repetition of cases such as the jailing of the "Pentonville Five" dockers in 1972 for contempt of previous Tory legislation and its institutions. A stoppage of train drivers, or miners, or steel process workers or printworkers may also be envisaged in such circumstances.

But quite apart from the undercurrents of such a threat to their funds, Mr Murray has laid down: "We don't set out wantonly and deliberately to break the law. But if the law prevents trade unionists from exercising their proper functions; they will say 'I cannot live with this law' and we shall take the consequences that flow from that." The transport workers go further, arguing that "some form of industrial action would be effective". So far, it is jaw-jaw. It will be next winter before the TUC barons at present leading with their mouth can follow with their members.

Milk banks for babies defended

From Our Correspondent
Oxford

A leading consultant in child medicine has rejected allegations that premature babies may die if they are fed from breast-milk banks.

Claims were made in *The Lancet*, that milk given by mothers and stored in milk banks could cause fatal infections if given to very small babies.

Dr David Baum is a honorary consultant in paediatrics at the Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, where he relies on the hospital's own milk bank to feed hundreds of premature babies each year.

Dr Baum, who was appointed by Oxford University to specialise in research in child medicine, rejects the allegations about breast milk banks, which appeared in a letter to *The Lancet* from Dr Herbert Barrie, a consultant paediatrician at the Charing Cross Hospital, London.

Dr Barrie likened instances of giving babies other mother's milk to giving blood transfusions. He claims that some babies may be incompatible to different milk.

Dr Baum replies: "This comparison is particularly unfortunate. He says that 'Dr Barrie has not helped the progression towards a sounder basis in the care of low-birth rate infants.'"

Motorway protest appeal fails

By Frances Gibb

An attempt to force the Secretary of State for Transport to order a fresh inquiry into orders and schemes approved for the M25 motorway between Wisley and Leatherhead, failed in the Court of Appeal yesterday.

Dismissing appeals by two local objectors, Mr Reginald Mayes and Mr John Earl, both of Ashted, Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, said he had great sympathy for their case but it was not well-founded in law.

The objectors claimed that a public inquiry in 1978 into side-road orders and compulsory purchase orders for the land needed was a "complete procedural mess-up".

They appealed against the dismissal of a previous application by Mr Mayes, a chartered electrical engineer and chairman of the Leatherhead-Ashted Motorway Protest Group, by Mr Justice Hodgson last July.

Mr R. A. Sears, QC, for the protesters, argued that the judge had erred in law in not holding that there had been a breach of natural justice by the inspector's refusal to hear evidence and admissions about the line of the motorway between Wisley and Leatherhead or on exhaust pollution.

Giving judgement, Lord Denning said that local people felt that the M25 section between Ashted and Leatherhead would diminish or destroy the amenities.

There had been a good deal of upset and disturbance when the public inquiry into the side road orders opened in May, 1978, and the inspector had been unable to proceed with the inquiry, he said.

The inspector sought guidance from Mr William Rodgers, then Secretary of State for Transport, who said a reconsideration of the route was unnecessary. The inspector then said he would hear evidence only on the issue which had arisen since June, 1978. It was that decision, which was the subject of the appeal.

Lord Denning said the minister was entitled not to consider such objections and could tell the inspector beforehand that he was not going to do so.

He cited the case brought by Miss Lesley Lovelock against the North-east section of the motorway two years ago.

"I would adhere to what I said then... the main question is whether Miss Lovelock was entitled to open the second inquiry for the objection she made at the first inquiry. It seems to me," Lord Denning said, "that if a matter has been canvassed at a first inquiry the inspector would be quite entitled to rule that we can't go into that again. It seems that that applies in our particular case."

TV debate could decide result

From Richard Ford, Dublin

IRISH ELECTION

hey's personal rating had fallen from 44 per cent to 22 per cent.

Paradoxically, 60 per cent of those polled thought Fianna Fail would form the next government, irrespective of their own preferences.

Fine Gael depends on the Labour Party maintaining its 15 seats. The prospects for Labour are looking increasingly bad as internal dissent continues to hamper their electoral effort.

Mr Brendan Halligan, Labour's former general secretary and one of the party's leading anti-coalitionists, who was to have run in Dublin seat, has decided not to stand. He is among those who are seriously dissatisfied with Mr Michael O'Leary, the party leader, and the way he handled the argument last week over whether the party should have a joint strategy with Fine Gael for the campaign.

The party's problems have also increased with the retirement from politics of two senior members, Mr Brendan Corish and Mr James Tully, the former Minister of Defence. In working-class constituencies, the harsh measures in the Budget have increased pressure on Labour candidates.

Faced with debts from last year's campaign, both Fianna

Fail and Fine Gael are forgoing the balloons, stickers, and bands that marked the last campaign.

Fianna Fail is expected to spend about £1m on the campaign and Mr Haughey is using a helicopter. Fine Gael expect to spend £500,000, and Dr Fitzgerald is using a campaign bus.

Public enquiry urged into boys homes

Pressure is growing in Northern Ireland for a public inquiry into why homosexual offences at boys' homes in Belfast went undetected for nearly 20 years (the Press Association reports).

A government committee of inquiry is due to start hearing evidence next Monday, but politicians and health officials are unhappy with the terms of reference. They want the case to be heard in public instead of behind closed doors, with legal representation for the witnesses.

The committee is headed by Mr Stephen McGonagle, a former Ombudsman for Northern Ireland. The inquiry, which comes after the imprisonment of five men in the city last December for sex offences at boys' homes, has been ordered by Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

A team of detectives led by Mr John Whiteside, Assistant Chief Constable of the RUC, is continuing its own investigations into the affair.

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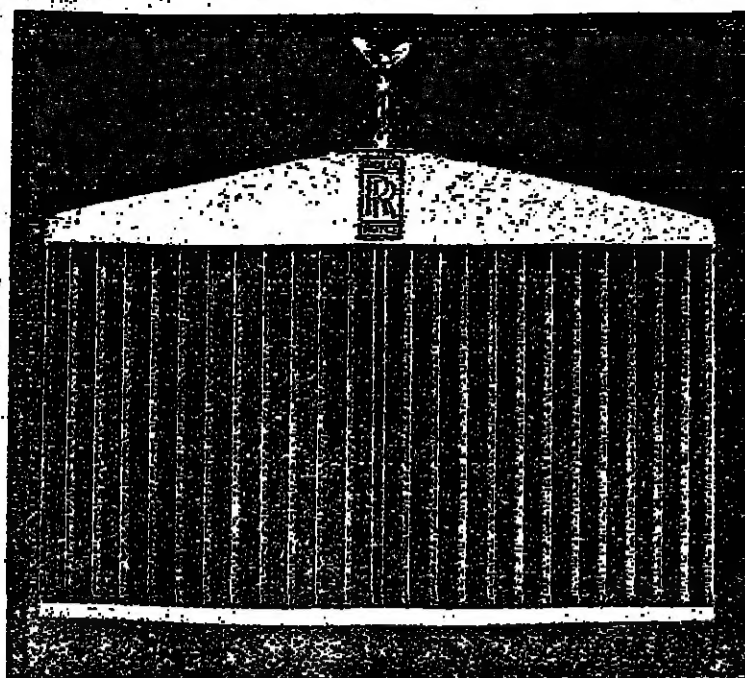
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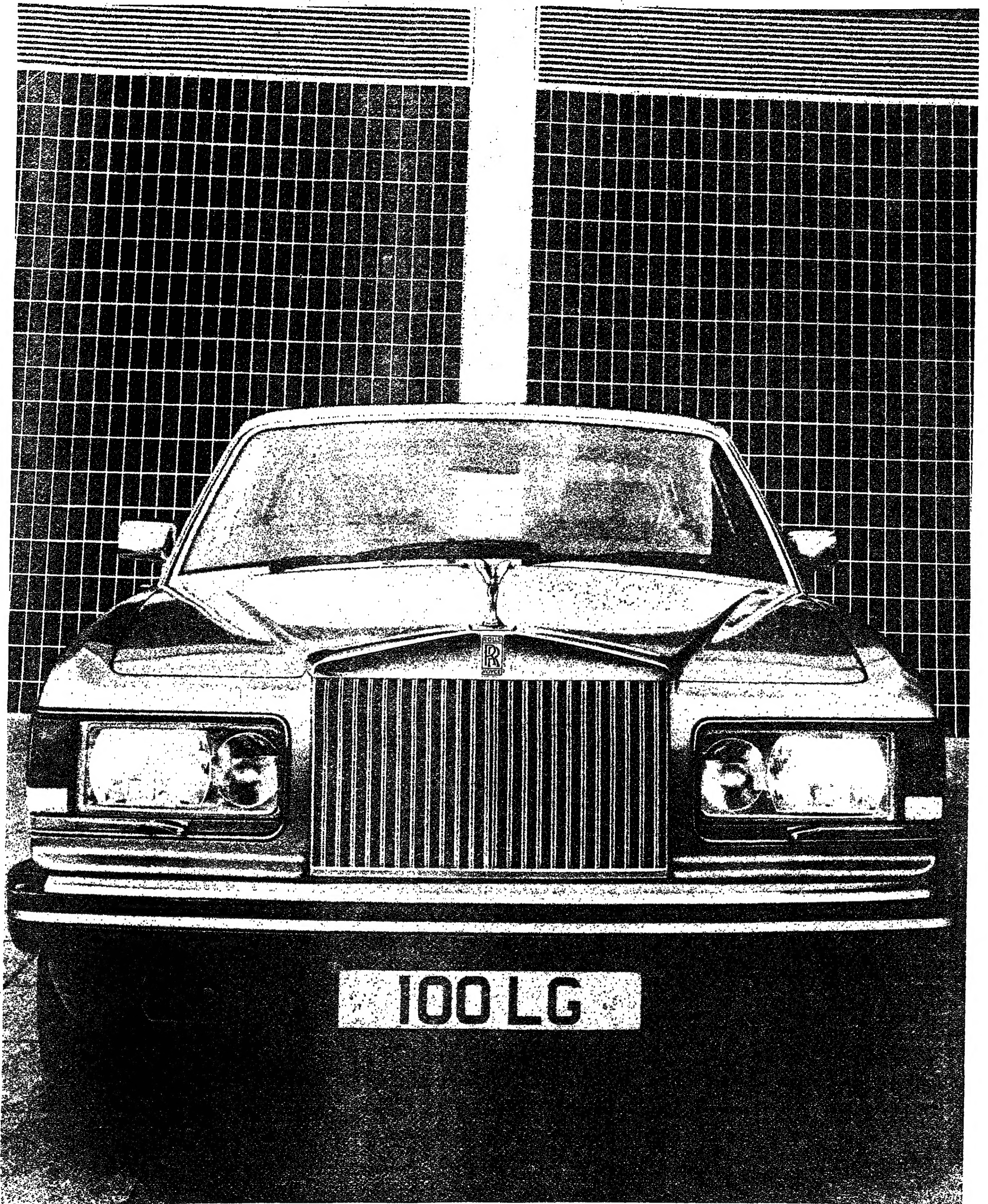


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 Henry Ford
 Fred Astaire
 Neville Chamberlain
 Sheik Ahmed Yamani
 Czar Nicholas II
 Rudyard Kipling
 Paris Singer
 Viscount Montgomery of Alamein
 Sir Charles Chaplin
 Luigi Innocenti
 Sir Ernest Tate
 Admiral of the Fleet Lord Beatty
 Jack Benny
 The Aga Khan
 Viscount Curzon
 Rudolph Valentino
 Horatio Bottomley
 General Foch
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 William Randolph Hearst
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 General Sir Douglas Haig
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 Sir Montague Burton
 F. Scott Fitzgerald
 Thakur Sahib of Rajkote
 H.M. King Constantine of Greece
 Reginald J. Mitchell
 Alfred Dunhill
 Herbert Austin
 Muhammad Ali
 Sir Harry Lauder
 John Lennon
 King Ibn Saud
 S.H. Grylls
 Raymond Chandler
 Sir Emsley Carr
 General Joffre
 Lord Dunsany
 Sir Henry Segrave
 Earl Mountbatten of Burma
 Georges Simenon
 Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands
 Sir Thomas Beecham
 P.G. Wodehouse

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PARLIAMENT February 4 1982

£50m a year state grants to help immigrants

SCARMAN REPORT

It was wrong to suggest that special measures to promote equality of opportunity for minorities would give some people an unfair advantage over the rest of the community, Lord Scarman, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, said in a debate on the Scarman report on the Brixton riots.

We are not (he said) dealing with reverse discrimination which would involve such matters as job quotas or lowering standards of recruitment for certain occupations. What is needed is simply to ensure equality of opportunities.

He said that in the report there was no excuse for street crimes and mugging and no question of impeding the police in their task of dealing with crime. Lord Scarman did not hesitate to describe the disorders as riots.

The work of the police needed to be reinforced by the work of the community. The functions of the police remained the prevention of crime, protection of life and property, the preservation of public tranquility. To strike the right balance between these duties required great discretion on the part of each individual police officer in the diverse society of today.

There had been some progress in recruitment from ethnic minorities but further steps must be taken. They must ensure that applicants were not unconsciously discriminated against. New recruits would be recruited independently before they were introduced.

The Home Office were discussing the police and the London Education Authority the possibility of providing suitable English courses for ethnic candidates. They were also setting up a special study to see how ethnic minority recruitment could be improved.

The Home Office fully accepted the importance given to police training by Lord Scarman. The Training Committee was to report by January 28 to decide how to tackle the report's recommendations and was to meet again in the autumn to review progress.

The Home Secretary (Mr. William Whitelaw) had clearly endorsed the need for reform of the complaints procedure. The Commission for Racial Equality had begun an inquiry into complaints against the police and hoped to complete it by Easter. The Home Office would wish to take the report into account before proceeding further.

Keeping law and order was the responsibility of all and effective cooperation between the police and the public should be the aim. The police should be seen to be the better protection of the public. A process of consultation about this had begun. It included a programme of visits by officials of the Home Office to study the informal consultation arrangements with police forces and police authorities how the liaison committees envisaged by Lord Scarman might function. One of the problems the report identified was that of racial disadvantage. The Government was committed to ensuring full equality of opportunity for everyone in the country irrespective of race, colour or religion.

One way of achieving this,

while assessing more accurately the extent of racial disadvantage was by placing greater emphasis on monitoring the position of ethnic minority communities. They must have the information available if they were to take effective steps to try to remedy racial disadvantage.

One of the changes proposed was to grants payable to local authorities under section 11 of the Local Government Act 1966. When this provision was first introduced it was in the context of a grant to the London County Council to help it deal with the problem of the large numbers of people newly arrived in Britain who were short lived, and that the grant would be payable to their families.

We now know (he said) that this was not proved to be the case. We therefore decided to abolish the so-called 10-year rule under which grants were payable only to those commonwealth immigrants who have been here for less than 10 years.

Under the new arrangements a grant would be payable to the local authority in which the immigrant was living. It was also proposed that there should be a substantial increase in the urban programme allocation for the year of current British life and increased from £210m to £270m.

Black businessmen sometimes experienced difficulties in seeking necessary financial projects. In discussions with the Department of Industry, the response of senior bankers had been constructive and encouraging. It was not clear that positive initiatives from the banks, and help black businessmen improve their skills in withstanding finance, and from the business relationships with the banks.

Lord Elstan-Morgan, for the Opposition, said Lord Scarman had said racial disadvantage was a factor of current British life and a significant causation in the Brixton disorders.

It was a disease deeply embedded in the life of the community and like every serious disease it could not be cured by minor applications of ointments to the surface of the skin. It was a disease of the blood and bone and affected the whole of the constitution.

In the last two years the Government had withdrawn £500m from the inner cities by their changes in the rate support system. Was the Government prepared to cancel out that withdrawal by extending the baseline to consider what added finances it would channel to these most vulnerable areas?

There was a call for two basic conditions—an adequacy of finance and a fully coordinated approach to the problems.

Lord Scarman recommended that there should be a meeting of would-be candidates to the police force who were thought or suspected to harbour deep racial prejudice, and this should be made a specific disciplinary offence.

Lord Wigoder, for the Liberals, said the police in future should be recruited in such a way that they represented a substantial extent all sections of the



Runcie: People not peaceable



Wigoder: Careful training

community, including the ethnic minorities.

He would not be as hesitant as the Government or Lord Scarman in considering the case for some degree of reverse discrimination to ensure that ethnic minorities were adequately represented in the police.

This should not be done by a lowering of the necessary standards, but by engaging suitable applicants and training them carefully and specifically so that they could reach the necessary standards and thus become fully-fledged members of the force.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Robert Runcie, said that he supported the idea that violence, wherever it occurred, whether at Toxteth, Bristol or Brixton, could ever be simply explained in terms of bad economic and social conditions which could be improved by the appropriate action of government and local government.

Unemployment and bad housing certainly played a major part in fuelling discontent which erupted into riots and they could not be complacent about a situation in which 65 per cent of black youth in Brixton was unemployed, 12,000 households there were living in overcrowded conditions.

However, men and women were not naturally peaceable law-abiding. No matter how good the communications, nor how restrained the police, force was also sometimes inescapable.

We do not live in a world of perfect justice and sometimes dangerous work (he said) by pretending that if only certain procedures, whether black or white, education and training opportunities to enable them to compete on an equal level with young people in more prosperous areas.

The churches were determined not to abandon the inner city and retreat to suburbia. In the light of the report they would be seeking ways of extending and consolidating Christian work in education, youth, and voluntary services as well as helping to change the stereotypical impressions which groups had of each other and challenging the mythologies which had been created.

The need for action at

government and at local level was urgent.

Lord Long, for the SDP, said that piecemeal implementation of the recommendations of the report and rejection of others would not do, although he had reservations, particularly about the recommendations of the sanction of dismissal against a police officer for racially prejudiced behaviour.

He had received from the Bishop of Liverpool a quotation which he thought was worth repeating. It was from a community leader in Liverpool 8: "We have always had bad housing and few jobs. We have learnt to put up with them, but please get the police off our backs."

He (Lord Hunt) had received similar advice from a community leader in Brixton. There was no doubt that minority feelings were running in that direction. It was essential, however, to remember the social and economic and criminal situations in which the police had to operate in Brixton, Toxteth and elsewhere.

Implementation of the report must be broad-based.

There was a need for urgent action on the Scarman report. They would count even greater disasters than occurred in Toxteth and Brixton if they did not heed that report now.

Lord Rawlinson of Ewell (C) said that despite the passages in the report on the efforts of the police and the difficulties they faced, he was not in any doubt of the impression of under-achievement of the police and the justifiable anxiety of the minority leaders in Brixton. The television authorities were motivated by a determination to entertain and sensationalize. The increase in violence in society was not a little due to the attitude of the television authorities on these matters.

There had been a deplorable decline in the quality and amount of news reporting, especially by the BBC. The reputation of it had been much reduced. Unless it was stopped it could lead to a loss of confidence in the news and the control of the corporation and the vesting of it in a separate entity, as was done with independent television.

There was no right among ethnic minorities for changes in the rule of law of the host country. They must be prepared to change and to accept the laws of the host country.

The report had dismissed the question of a new Riot Act. He hoped the Home Secretary would consider in greater depth than in 1968, the link between the principle of "disperse or be arrested".

Firm and resolute leadership from the Home Office (he said) was needed and the strengthening of the police; and the demonstration of society's determination not to be overborne by those who do not like the law, do not keep it. Ministers should stand by the men and women in the first line of the defence of liberty. (Conservative cheers.)

Shortage of farms to rent

AGRICULTURE

The continuing decline of the tenanted sector of farming was a matter of concern, Mr. Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said. He added that he had received representations from a number of individuals and organizations, including the National Farmers' Union and Country Landowners' Association, and with his colleagues were considering what action should be taken in the future.

Mr. Peter Temple-Morris (Leominster, C) said the decline of the tenanted sector was potentially dangerous for the future. He said he would press for legislation on this matter in the next session of Parliament and press vigorously in this direction.

Mr. Walker: We will consider the proposals that have been made and have discussions with all concerned. It is important to try to get a situation in which there is a permanency of arrangements in the landlord-tenant area which can be an opportunity for young farmers in the future.

Mr. Gavin Strange, an Opposition spokesman on food, agriculture and fisheries (Edinburgh, East, Lab) said that the Opposition cannot support proposals which would weaken the security of families of future generations, who are concerned about escalating farm rents.

Would he consider introducing an early piece of legislation to limit the rise in farm rents which are doing so much harm to agriculture?

Mr. Walker: I hope he will consider the immense frustration of young potential farmers throughout the country because of the total lack of availability of rented farms. The sort of policy which says that we just want low rents and not want to create an incentive for any landlord putting forward tenant farms in future is against the interests of young farmers.

Peter Hardy (Rother Valley, Lab) said that it might be desirable for the NFU and CLA to talk about tenancies, it might be useful if they and the Ministry of Agriculture were to consider increasing scale of farming amalgamations.

Mr. Walker: The two are closely connected. If when a farm becomes available to let it is taken up by a tenant, it is a very serious situation that he talks about. I have to try to find a fair and sensible system between both sides which is good for young farmers.

Overfishing by Danes is attacked

Reported over-fishing by Denmark was regarded by the British Government as a serious problem, Mr. Alick Buchanan-Smith, Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said. The British Government had made its view plain to the European Commission.

The only settlement in negotiations for a common fisheries policy would be one acceptable to all fishing nations. Progress had been made on marketing, conservation and on the Community's reciprocal fishing arrangements with certain third countries including Norway. The next meeting of the council of fisheries ministers was expected to take place in March.

Mr. Albert McQuarrie (East Aberdeenshire, C) Denmark's over-fishing in the North Sea was herring by 10 times the quota, by 11,000 tonnes against 1,000 tonnes. What action will he take

at the Council of Ministers meeting in March about this breach of the fishing regulations?

Mr. Buchanan-Smith: The reported over-fishing by the Danes is something which we regard as deeply and utterly unsatisfactory. We are not waiting for the March meeting and have already expressed our view to the Danes.

This simply underlines the necessity of getting a common fisheries policy, with proper policing and proper control to maintain this kind of thing taking place.

We do not (he said later) want just any settlement. We want a settlement that is satisfactory. In the interim we have been on matters such as conservation and marketing we have managed to deal with a number of issues to the benefit of the British fishing industry. Let us hope we can get down to dealing constructively and satisfactorily with the remaining issues.

Dutch must wipe out advantage

Positive proposals from the Dutch Government on the elimination of unfair advantages for their horticulturists through of gas subsidies are expected at the next meeting of the EEC Council of Agriculture Ministers, Mr. Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food said.

Asked by Mr. Michael Latham (Melton, C) what progress had been made on the issue, and facing criticisms from Conservative, Labour and Liberal MPs for the elimination of the gap between industrial and horticultural tariffs operating in Holland.

This matter is on the agenda of the meeting on the agenda of February 15. I expect some positive proposals to be put and I hope the elimination of this unfair advantage to the Dutch growers.

Mr. Latham: Since the real answer is that no progress has been made at all, and Mr. Walker has had to introduce welcome measures to protect our growers being destroyed, will he make it plain to the Dutch that if they want to play it tough and rough so can we? (Cheers)

Walker: National aid to continue

Mr. Walker: I have no doubt that the Dutch Government do come with firm proposals on February 15 on the matter, they as a government will immediately be taken to the European Court. That is a correct procedure to pursue.

We have introduced national aids in the interim and it is certainly my policy to see that until this matter is settled, these national aids continue.

Mr. Gerald Howells (Cardigan, L) When does he expect British producers to compete on equal terms with the Dutch?

Mr. Walker: I hope in the very near future. In the interim a situation where this gap already existed. No progress of any description had been made. If this gap is eliminated in the future, it will be a considerable and important progress.

Mr. Mark Hughes, an opposition spokesman (Durham, Lab): This procrastination on Mr. Walker's part and, on that of the EEC

Sex shop licensing approved

PORNOGRAPHY

The new system for licensing sex shops and cinemas was approved during an all night sitting in the Commons when Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill completed its passage.

Several MPs criticised the reference in the new scheme which would allow local authorities to licence premises where films are shown or books or records which deal with "sexual activity", restraint, violence or cruelty associated with sexual activity.

Mr. Timothy Raison, Minister of State, Home Office, said that the Government was using those words, the Government would be happy to consider it.

MPs also agreed to a new clause designed to tackle the nuisance of fly posting in district councils or London boroughs power to remove obnoxious racy placards or notices displayed in their area which they believed are in contravention of advertisement regulations.

Marginal land surveys are completed

The marginal land surveys in the United Kingdom have been completed and the Government is considering the case for extending the "less favoured areas" that might be submitted to the European Commission.

Mrs. Peggy Farnham, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food said.

The Government had always said, she added, there was no commitment to provide cash for designated areas.

Mr. Peter Mills (West Devon, C): There is tremendous economic benefits to the rural areas if this went forward quickly. With the help of the Government, through roads and buildings, it is important to increase home food production from marginal land.

Mrs. Farnham: As soon as the results have been fully examined and the interested parties have been consulted, the case will go to the European Commission.

It does need careful consideration. The Government will submit a watergate case as soon as possible. The National Farmers' Union have agreed to this approach.

Mr. Farnham said the only thing that would really be helpful in the rural dispute would be for the Government to make a commitment in the meantime, a Commons debate would not be helpful.

He also indicated that the death grant was under consideration and the Government was not in a position to make an announcement.

Need to set an example

The Speaker, Mr. George Thomas, in a statement said: There has been considerable publicity about the region of 16 to 17 per cent was used last night.

As long as I am Speaker, I shall consider that an unparliamentary expression, but as we would use it in our own homes, I hope this House can maintain a better example to the country.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Private Members' Bills: Planning Inquiries (Attendance of Public) Bill and Death Grant Increase Bill, second readings.

Mr. Gregor Mackenzie (Rushy, Lab) said the Bill would be possible to implement some of the legitimate aspirations of old age pensioners. By doing this the Government had destroyed the means by which the elderly could be paid a fair pension.

Mr. Andrew Bowden (Brixton, Kempston, C) said he could support neither the motion nor the Government amendment in the next session of Parliament. The Government had increased the pension of 16 to 17 per cent allowing for an inflation rate of 12 per cent between 1979 and 1980.

November and next. The Government had increased the pension of 16 to 17 per cent of the pension of 15 with £8 for a married couple, to honour pledges.

The Government should be looking ahead towards preparing a workable national consensus scheme and there was more to be done in producing a nationally comprehensive fuel and heating scheme.

Public sector pensions being sorted out

The Government's aim was to ensure that pensions for public servants were fair to taxpayers and their dependants, Mr. Thatcher the Prime Minister, said during questions.

She added: We are trying to sort out the whole matter of conditions of contributions for the many different groups to public service—civil servants, nurses and voluntary workers, public service—civil servants, nurses and voluntary workers.

Mr. Robert McCrindle (Brentwood and Ongar, C) had drawn attention to the widespread coverage in the morning papers on inter-linked pensions for the public service.

Recognizing (he said) that the Cabinet may well be considering the Scott report, he was not prepared to indicate if the Government will be prepared to accept the principle recommendation of the report that notwithstanding the possibility of inter-linked pensions in the public service should remain?

Mrs. Thatcher told him she had no announcement to make about this and would be surprised if there were an announcement tomorrow (Friday).

Next week's business

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be: Monday: Employment Bill, second reading. Tuesday: Transport Bill, second reading. Wednesday: Motions on Rate Support Grant (Scotland) Order and the Housing Support Grant (Scotland) Order. Thursday: Debate on an Opposition motion on overseas development. Friday: Private Members' Bills: Cinematograph Bill, Garden Supplies (Sunday Trading) Bill.

and Gaming (Amendment) Bill, second readings.

The main business in the House of Lords next week will be: Monday: Antiquities Bill, second reading. Debate on report of the EEC committee in annual report. Tuesday: Shops Bill, second reading. Debate on personal savings and the housing market. Wednesday: Debate on green paper, Alternatives to Domestic Rates. Thursday: Deer (Amendment) Bill, second reading.

BL saves £100,000 on water bill.

As their entry for a competition run by the Engineering Industry Training Board, three BL Cars apprentices have devised a system that will cut down the volume of water used at Longbridge, home of the Mini and the Metro.

Their scheme won Keith Millward, Guy Johnson and Martin Scott a

place in the National finals of the competition.

It will cut the water bill at Longbridge by 20%—£100,000 per year—and an estimated £1 million a year if applied across the group.

BL Fighting back

SOCIAL SECURITY

Mr. Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, announced as part of a package to provide more Government help for the elderly, the setting up of three experimental nursing homes within the National Health Service.

They will be in Portsmouth, Fleetwood and Sheffield and it is hoped that two will become operational within the next 18 months and the third shortly after that.

Mr. Fowler, speaking in a debate on the pensions and living standards of the elderly, said the Government's other proposals included a new registration system to improve standards in private and voluntary old people's homes and increased Government grants to voluntary organizations helping the elderly.

Mr. John (Pontypridd, Lab) moved an Opposition motion recalling the major progress made by the last Labour Government in raising the standard of living and quality of life of the elderly.

The motion said urgent measures were needed to remedy the situation and in particular an early report was needed on how a constructive response may be made to the declaration of intent of the National Pensioners' Convention.

He said that the pensioners' convention—the federation of all the major organizations involved with pensioners—was lobbying the Commons on February 18.

There would be many sincere people united in their anger at the way their standard of living had dropped in the last three years. They would present their ideas as to how that should be prevented in the future.

No one could deny that the Labour government had done a great deal for the pensioner. It was equally undeniable that the story over the last three years was in stark contrast to that record.

save £500m by having cut this link, and a large proportion of this money would be lost by retirement pensioners.

Mr. Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, moved a Government amendment welcome the Government's decision in taking at a time of severe economic difficulty fully to protect retirement pensions against inflation.

Nothing gave pensioners a sense of grievance more keenly than the issue of uprating in line with inflation. The Government should make good the 3 per cent shortfall in pensions—made up of a 1 per cent claw-back and a 2 per cent lag behind the rate of inflation—as quickly as possible.

There were difficulties in uprating more than annually, but the Government should be looking for ways it could be done rather than reasons why it was not possible. Six-monthly uprating should be considered as a possibility.

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The Government should shake the Department of Health and Social Services out of its inactive attitude to try to see ways in which uprating could be done on a six-monthly basis rather than annually.

The £10 Christmas bonus was now worth, in the same terms, less than £3. It should at least be doubled and inflation was to be met fully, it would have to be.

There was overwhelming evidence that the death grant was inadequate and causing great anxiety as surviving relatives struggled to pay large funeral bills. The figure of £30 fixed in 1968 was nonsense in 1982.

The Government should also urgently reconsider the need for

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Sex victims volunteer for jail talks with rapists

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Women victims of sexual attacks have volunteered to meet rapists in Maidstone prison, Kent, so that they can understand better the serious consequences of their crime.

The once-weekly sessions were praised yesterday in a report on Maidstone prison by the Chief Inspector of Prisons.

The women counsellors at these sessions are voluntary associates, volunteers who help the probation service. They take part with groups of six prisoners to talk about their feelings as victims of sexual attack. A probation officer and two uniformed prison officers also attend. A prisoner goes to the group until officers feel he has learnt all he can. According to the Home Office the men taking part are "generally naive, inadequate people with little understanding of the opposite sex or sexual matters." The scheme is one of a number described in the report as impressive and is designed to make prison treatment more positive.

By allowing men to talk to victims the intention is to try to prevent the prisoners fantasizing about women as sexual objects. The probation service has also set up an Alcoholics Anonymous group.

The sex offenders are from a special wing which brings together 100 men from various prisons who have asked to be segregated because the nature of their offences might lead to attacks by other prisoners.

The report describes the "real achievement of providing a comparatively good quality of life and freedom from intimidation for 100 men who would otherwise have a miserable existence elsewhere."

Miss Joan Lestor, Labour's spokesman on women's rights, yesterday called on Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, to set up police rape squads. (The Press Association reports).

She also demanded changes in police procedure for questioning rape victims.

In a letter to Whitelaw, Miss Lestor, MP for Eton and Slough, said rape squads similar to those in some cities in the United States should be established in Britain.

"I very much encourage you seriously to consider the possibility of setting up specialized training for officers in this country, especially in the Metropolitan area, along similar lines to the existing bomb and drug squads," she said.

Miss Lestor said women should have to make only a brief statement before being examined.

Miss Lestor also insisted that a full statement should be taken only after the woman had had a chance to rest and advised of the possibility of a friend remaining with her.

An anti-rape campaign was started yesterday aimed at warning nurses, to take special care and be extra alert. The campaign, launched by the Nursing Standard, says nurses are at high risk of sexual attack. It wants health authorities to increase security.

Edward Dubois, the "Brixton rapist", who followed young women to their homes and then attacked them, was jailed for nine years at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Judge Mason told him: "During the period of these offences no woman of a respectable kind in this area was safe from you."

"Who knows what effect what you did may have on them for the rest of their lives?"

Dubois, aged 30, an unemployed squatter, had been convicted of raping three women.

The judge told him: "You were medically examined and it is quite clear there is no mental abnormality on your part. The sentence I pass must reflect the horror of which I have spoken and everyone's sense of public outrage over what you did."

Dubois received three years for each rape, the sentences to run consecutively. He received a total of six months for thefts.

HM Prison Maidstone: Report by HM Chief Inspector of Prisons (Home Office, London, £1.10).



Lieutenant-Colonel George Forty, curator of the Bovington Tank Museum, Dorset, who has launched a campaign to place the armoured vehicle collection under cover to save it from weather damage

Confusion blamed for death blast

A misunderstanding led to a chemical plant explosion which killed one man, seriously injured another and resulted in a thousand people being moved from their homes, a court was told yesterday.

An employee misinterpreted instructions from a company director after vapours escaped from a still at the Chemstar plant in Sialybridge, and turned the still back on, causing the explosion, magistrates at Dulcinefield, Greater Manchester, were told.

The court was told that the firm, which admitted failing to ensure its employees' safety would soon be going into liquidation. It was fined £900.

Dr John Newton, for the prosecution said the explosion on September 6 happened during the "laundering" of 1,200 gallons of highly inflammable hexane chemical, a distillation process which required a perfect supply of water.

Dr Newton said the hot vapours escaped while Mr Norman Halsall, who was purifying the hexane, was helping a lorry driver.

Mr Halsall telephoned Mr John Simon, a company director, and was told to switch off everything and wait for half an hour, Mr Tim Mort, the company's solicitor, said.

But Mr Mort said Mr Halsall misunderstood the instruction and switched the steam from the still back on

Computer aid for astronomers

By Robin McKie, of The Times Higher Education Supplement

An advanced technique which will allow British astronomers to operate telescopes in other countries and to carry out all normal experiments from computer terminals in this country is to be launched by the Science and Engineering Research Council.

The first stage of the project is to be established at the council's Hawaii observatory with the aim of running the United Kingdom infrared telescope there directly from its administrative base at the Royal Observatory, Edinburgh, in a few years.

A second telescope, to study star formation and interstellar dust clouds using radiation of wavelengths of less than a millimetre, is also expected to be built by the council in Hawaii. A formal proposal recommending the move is to be discussed by the council in the next few weeks.

Professor Malcolm Longair, director of the Edinburgh observatory, said the two telescopes would then offer British astronomers "a world-beating combination of facilities". Using the satellite link, in combination with Starlink, the national computer display system that connects Britain's main astronomical centres, scientists would be able to sit at a terminal and operate the telescopes, carrying out their research without leaving their departments.

The project is to be set up in three stages. First, a data channel using telephone lines will connect the infra-red

telescope, sited on top of the 14,000ft peak Mauna Kea, with its ground base at the town of Hilo, to allow scientists there a limited amount of remote control.

Then a microwave radio link will be set up so the telescope's operations can be run on full remote control from Hilo. In a few years, those will be extended using communication satellites, so that the observatory will run directly using duplicate controls in Britain.

Calculated scheme to learn maths

From Our Correspondent, Dereham

Children at a Norfolk school are to have to take a special test before being granted a licence to use a pocket calculator in class.

If they subsequently make a bad mathematical error, the licence will be endorsed. Three endorsements will mean a calculator ban until they have passed the test again.

The scheme is the idea of Mr John Kirby, deputy headmaster and a mathematics teacher at Northgate High School, Dereham. He said he was concerned at the effects calculators were having. Children were using them without knowing elementary facts of arithmetic.

The calculator licence will be awarded on passing a numeracy examination.

"The questions will not demand complicated calculations. Just proof that the pupil has grasped the basic principles of the four rules, decimals, percentages, cancelling, fractions and money," Mr Kirby said.

All children up to the fourth year will be covered by the scheme and licences will be renewed at least annually, subject to success in the numeracy examinations.

The licence will be endorsed for an "unforgivable error", Mr Kirby said.

□ The Cockcroft committee of inquiry into mathematics teaching, whose report was published last week, devotes a whole chapter to the use of calculators and computers in the belief that their increasing availability at low cost is "of the greatest significance" (Our Education Correspondent writes).

It comments on public concern about the use of calculators by children who have not yet mastered the traditional skills of arithmetic, but says that the weight of evidence is that the use of calculators has not produced any adverse effect on basic computational ability. "There can be little doubt of the motivating effect which calculators have for very many children", it says, and calls for the introduction of a national scheme to ensure that each pupil has access to a calculator during mathematics lessons.

The increasing use of calculators in adult life provided an over-riding reason why all secondary pupils should be taught and allowed to use a calculator, the committee says. It recommends that calculators replace logarithm tables.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Leyland workers stay out

Bus and truck workers at Leyland Vehicles' five factories in Lancashire voted overwhelmingly yesterday to continue their two-week strike over planned redundancies, in spite of claims that it threatens the company's future (our correspondent writes).

Of the estimated 5,000 workers crowded into the car park at the Farington works at Leyland, fewer than 100 voted against continuing the stoppage.

Mr Michael Coyne, strike committee chairman, accused management during the 20-minute meeting of waging a war of words in an extensive local newspaper advertising campaign.

"They are expecting the workers to capitulate under all the publicity and using the tactic of not meeting for another 15 days while this happens," he said. "We will be available for 24 hours a day to talk to them about an honourable return to work."

Judge rewards girl with £30

Helen Brearley aged 16, was praised by a judge at Luton, Bedfordshire, yesterday and given a £30 reward from public funds for her alertness in picking out a thief in an identity parade.

She saw Hugh O'Neil, aged 27, of Luton, dash from a shop after he and another man attacked an elderly shopkeeper and robbed him, at knife-point, of £50. O'Neil was jailed for seven years for the robberies on Wednesday.

Guard hurt in robbery

A security guard delivering nearly £12,000 in wages had his nose broken in an armed robbery by three masked men in Wavertree, Liverpool, yesterday.

Pubs back research

More than £231,000 has been raised for medical research by 615 public houses throughout Britain in the national InterPub contest organized by the Muscular Dystrophy Group.

No bail for youth

A youth aged 15 was remanded for a week by Bristol Juvenile Court yesterday accused of the attempted murder of Police Constable Ian Bennett, aged 36 on January 30. Bail was refused.

Factory sit-in must end

From Our Correspondent, Edinburgh

Plessey, the electronics company, was granted an order by a Court of Session judge in Edinburgh yesterday banning the continued occupation of its factory in Bathgate, Lothian, by members of the work force.

The occupation has been going on since January 25 when it was announced that the factory was to close at the end of March.

A petition seeking an interim interdict named 141 workers including 10 shop stewards. After hearing legal argument Lord Kincaid said: "I am not in a position to judge the action taken by the company, or to judge the policy being pursued. I am concerned with the occupation of the premises." He added that the action of the work force might or might not be politically or industrially proper, but they had not denied at the hearing that the company had the right to prevent the occupation of the premises without their authority.

Three members of the work force appeared.

Mr George Wilson said: "If there is any natural justice, then that justice would be on our side." Lord Kincaid commented: "I do not administer natural justice. I administer the law of Scotland, which may or may not be justice. I can't tell you whether your cause is just — just whether it is legal."

Mrs Anne Moonie said the occupation was the only way to draw attention to their plight.

A meeting of workers afterwards decided to continue the occupation, and hold another meeting at the weekend. (Our Shotts Correspondent writes).

IF THE FUTURE LOOKS GOOD TO IAL, IT'S FOR GOOD REASON.

There's one company whose aim isn't just survival in 1982.

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British company actively involved in all of the four major growth areas in the world economy for the eighties.

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The following good-news stories make a healthy change from reading about the gloom.

Mapping the ocean floor.

For years Britannia ruled the waves. Now through a majority investment in Ocean Data Systems Inc. (USA) and its wholly owned subsidiary, Global Weather Dynamics Inc., IAL is about to gain new market opportunities in oceanography, meteorology and digital colour graphics display systems.

A new era in air traffic control.

Last October, the UK Civil Aviation Authority awarded IAL the contract for equipping the London Air Traffic Control Centre with a microprocessor-based voice communications system, IAL Stratus. This will help to achieve even higher standards in safety and efficiency.

The £150m medical services contract.

Through its associates, the International Hospitals Group, IAL has already started work on a massive £150m medical services contract for the Saudi Arabian National Guard.

The hotel run by computer.

During the past year IAL has masterminded and financed the development of Maxial, a totally new computer based hotel management system. This technology will meet the increasingly sophisticated demands of the hotel and leisure industries, on a worldwide scale.

New factories. More employment.

While cut-backs are the talk of other boardrooms IAL continues to expand.

In August our Data Communications Division will be opening a new factory complex near Basingstoke.

Naturally, we are involved in many more new developments: for example, satellite ground processing systems and fibre optics. Of course there are other projects of a sensitive nature that also hold great potential for the company. And thus for the economy.

If you're interested in more facts and figures our Company Secretary will be happy to post you a copy of our Annual Report.



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NEWS IN SUMMARY

Creation scientists retreat

New York.—The final note has been sounded in the retreat of the so-called "creation scientists" of Arkansas (Michael Hamlyn writes). The state's Attorney General announced that he was not proceeding with an appeal against the judgment that a law requiring balanced treatment between evolution and creation in schools was unconstitutional.

Crash pilots knew about ice

Washington.—A tape from the airliner that crashed into the Potomac River three weeks ago, killing 78 people, suggested that the pilots took off knowing there was ice on snow on the wings, the Washington Post reported.

Festival rejects Disney film

A Walt Disney film depicting the flight by hot air balloon of two families from East Germany to the West has been rejected by a festival at the Berlin Film Festival last week after next (Kenneth Gosling writes). No reason was given, a spokesman for Walt Disney Productions said.

Missing imam case closed

Rome.—The Rome magistrate in charge of investigations into the disappearance in August, 1978, of Moussa Sadat, the Lebanese Shiite imam, has ordered the case closed, a source in the judiciary reported.

Poison gas accusation

Berlin, Feb.—A West Berlin firm has been manufacturing illegally a poison gas ingredient and shipping it to Israel, the city prosecutor's office said.

Hospital check on Kissinger

New York.—Henry Kissinger, the former Secretary of State, is in hospital in Boston for what his staff called a routine check-up. He is due to be discharged today to go on holiday.

Trip to Japan

Paris.—President Mitterrand will make a state visit to Japan next April, at a date yet to be decided. It will be the first by a French President to that country.

Squabbles over 39-hour week

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Feb 4

The French Government decree for reducing the working week to 39 hours and introducing a fifth week of paid holidays a year, has got off to a bad start. Its scope was not clearly defined by the Government, as the Prime Minister himself has admitted, and it is being very differently interpreted by the employers and the unions.

The consequence was the outbreak of a rash of local conflicts, strikes and stoppages, of which the most spectacular is the work to rule by customs officers, causing delays and disruption for the past week, mainly to road traffic, but also at airports.

The customs officials have threatened to paralyse traffic if their own, often unwritten, "perks" are not maintained. They want meal, rest, and travel time to be included in the 39-hour week, which is not in accordance with the administration's interpretation of the government decree — that it means 39 hours effectively worked.

They claim, for instance, that this means they lose the hour they were paid for "carbonic pollution" at the alpine tunnels of Frejus and Mont Blanc. So hundreds of lorries have piled up at the Spanish and Italian frontiers, and travellers' luggage has been meticulously searched as a gesture of protest.

Leftist CFDT metal workers have called for a week of action next week to obtain a "real" reduction in working hours, and the and effective work-sharing.

As for the Communist CGT, it has condemned the government measure as a "bad decree", and is launching a campaign for the defence of its members' acquired rights, and against any reduction in earnings.

ANGER OVER BELGIAN AUSTERITY

From Our Own Correspondent, Brussels, Feb 4

The Coalition Government's special powers came into force today as signs of mounting social unrest became apparent. The special powers make it possible to introduce by royal decree fiscal and economic measures the Government deems necessary to save the country from impending bankruptcy.

The first such measures are relatively uncontroversial. Two help the building industry by cutting value added tax on construction from 17 to 6 per cent and by doing away with capital gains tax on building sites.

A 24-hour general strike called by the socialist FGTS union for next Monday is expected to receive support throughout the country, while in Wallonia members of the Christian CSC union are planning to defy their executive and join the protest.

Mubarak fails to bridge gulf on Palestinians

From Nicholas Hirst, Washington, Feb 4

Despite a firm assurance of Egypt's commitment to the Camp David peace process President Mubarak has underscored the deep differences between his country and Israel on ways to solve the Palestinian problem.

After a second meeting here today with President Reagan, Mr Mubarak reaffirmed his commitment to the present Palestinian autonomy talks: "We are determined to pursue our peace efforts until a comprehensive settlement is reached according to the Camp David accords", he said in a formal statement on leaving the White House.

But no new initiatives on how to bring about a breakthrough have emerged from the discussions in Washington.

President Mubarak in another formal statement yesterday emphasized that the 1.2 million Palestinians living in Israel-occupied territory on the West Bank and Gaza Strip had a right to function as a national entity and to self-determination.

This would not necessarily mean creating a nation state, but moving some way towards it and does not accord with the limited autonomy that the Israelis have in mind.

A spokesman for the Israeli Embassy here said today that the call for a national entity deviated from the Camp David accords.

President Mubarak since taking office has been trying to heal the break between Egypt and the other Arab nations which had developed over Egypt's rapprochement with Israel. His public statements are regarded as part of his search for a solution to the Palestinian problem with which other Arab states could concur.

Like President Sadat during his visit last year, President Mubarak called last night on the United States to open talks with the Palestinians.

Technologies, the parent company of Pratt and Whitney. The Government alternative approval of the Lavie project was said to have been coproduction of American aircraft, but a squadron of F15, F16 and F18 would be so expensive that the Air Force would not be able to afford enough aircraft, according to parliamentary procurement committee.

Mr Sharon told a press conference that terrorist breaches of the ceasefire were building up, and he said Israel would not accept a return to the situation that preceded the July ceasefire. He said Israel would not initiate fighting but would respond to attacks.

He held PLO headquarters in Lebanon responsible for directing terrorist attacks wherever they occurred.

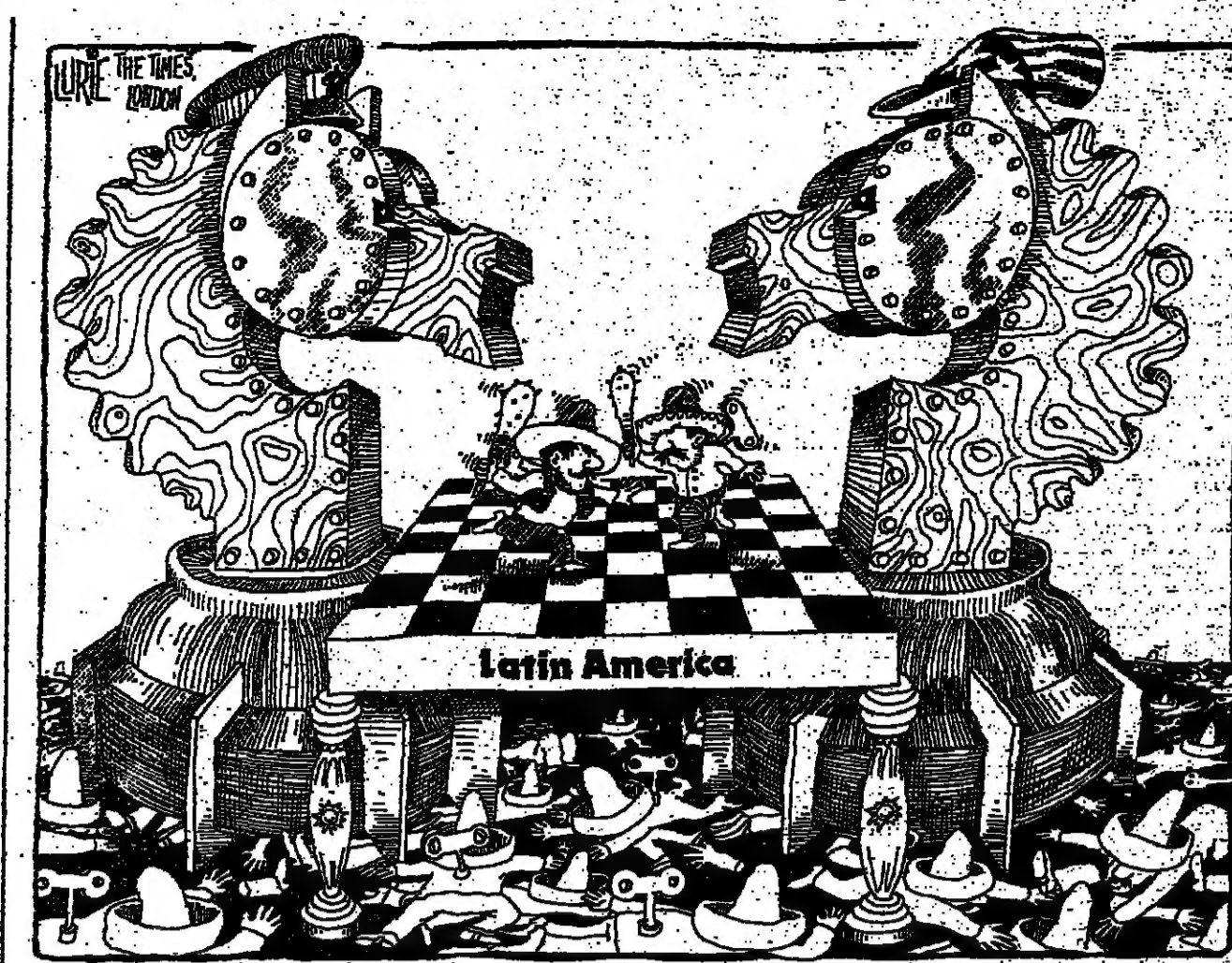
He said there were 60 breaches of the ceasefire which was arranged in July by Mr Philip Habib, the American special envoy. Half of them were in the South Lebanese strip controlled by Major Saad Haddad, Israel's ally. More than 20 attempts were made to infiltrate from Jordan but most of these were intercepted by the Jordanians. The rest of the breaches occurred in Europe where terrorists attacked Jewish and Israeli institutions.

Major Haddad demanded today that the United Nations and Israel halt an increase in Palestinian guerrilla forces in the area, (Reuters reports).

He said the number of Palestinian guerrillas had risen in recent weeks from 500 to more than 900 and were inflicting with any difficulty into the area held by United Nations forces, especially near Tyre where the Senegalese contingent let them through.

Major Haddad said the guerrillas had used the ceasefire made last summer to strengthen their units.

New York Arab states appeared determined today to press ahead with a resolution which could pave the way for Israel's expulsion from the United Nations (Zoriana Pysarski writes).



US defence cost put at £113,600m

From Mohsin Ali, Washington, Feb 4

While President Reagan puts the finishing touches to the 1983 budget which he is to send to Congress next week, his senior officials have been juggling with figures which would appear to raise the level of defence appropriations while not increasing the size of the overall budget deficit.

According to administration sources, the President's budget message will call for actual defence spending amounting to \$215,900m (£113,630m). This amount, which is a record since 1953, is about \$1,000m more than the president had predicted last September.

Additionally, the President will seek an extra \$13,600m in new budget authority for the Pentagon. However, this amount will not actually be spent during fiscal 1983 but will enable the Pentagon to make contracts which would have to be paid in subsequent years.

Mr Casper Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, discussed the proposed increases during a closed session of the Senate armed services committee earlier this week.

Some reports of what Mr Weinberger told that meeting gave the impression that the President had agreed to a further increase in actual defence spending rather than in budget authority.

Administration sources said the main effort in shaping the new defence budget had focused on keeping 1983 spending increases in check.

Political motive seen in troop cuts leak

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, Feb 4

There are no plans to reduce the 350,000 American troops based in Western Europe in either the short, medium, or long term.

However a proposal to cut back the number and to build up an expeditionary force based in America is one of the ideas discussed from time to time by Nato experts examining ways of streamlining the alliance's military capability.

The fact that such a proposal should have been leaked to the West German newspaper, Die Welt is considered to be a political move by defence experts in Washington. There is considerable discontent with sections of the administration of Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, particularly over Poland.

Suggestions that the United States could be considering a troop reduction were certainly to cause him political embarrassment and provide ammunition to the opposition Christian Democrats.

Despite the strains which NATO is undergoing, the administration remains solidly committed to it. It is a matter on which even Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, and Mr Casper Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, are united.

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Night battle for a dusty town

From Paul Ellman, Tegucigalpa, Feb 4

It was far from a great battle but it was typical of the two-year-old war in El Salvador. The guerrillas showed that they could strike close to the capital but were unable to attain their objective — the capture of this dusty town of 25,000 inhabitants, 12 miles from the outskirts of San Salvador.

The guerrillas of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Movement surrounded the town shortly after 10 pm last night. They called upon its defenders, a 44-man force drawn from the local militia, to surrender and, when they refused, opened fire.

The attacking guerrilla force, estimated to have been 200-strong, swiftly overran positions on the edge of the town and moved on the local command post.

The defenders, armed only with vintage, bolt-action rifles against the automatic rifles and grenade-launchers of the guerrillas, were able to call up troops from aarrison near by.

The clash came well into the night with the last exchange of fire occurring around 5 am, seven hours after the initial guerrilla attack.

The defenders suffered three dead — two of them from the local militia and the other from the Army — and 10 wounded. One of the dead was Carlos Galandarez, a 48-year-old fieldworker and father of eight.

Hostility to press plan rejected as hysterical

From Michael Hornsby, Cape Town, Feb 4

Mr R. E. Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, today described as hysterical and premature the hostile press reaction here and abroad to the proposals of the Steyn commission of inquiry into the mass media.

In an interview with The Times, Mr Botha maintained that the press coverage of the Steyn report had been deliberately "dressed up in such a fashion as to give the impression to the reader abroad that the Government intends to kill press freedom in this country."

"Some papers here obviously expected the Government to react immediately and to clamp down on the press," he said. "The Government did exactly the opposite."

Mr Botha maintained: "The present hysterical outburst is apparently based on frustration that the Government did not react as expected."

The Steyn report, accompanied by draft Bills embodying its proposals, was tabled in Parliament earlier this week. If implemented, the draft laws would, among other things, require all journalists to be licensed by a statutory board of controls. This has been widely condemned as a means of imposing political conformity.

The Prime Minister's response in Parliament to the Steyn report had been, "very, very categorical and clearly stated," Mr Botha declared.

"He said that the Government could not give a conclusive 'yes' or 'no', that it was a voluminous report, that it required study and that negotiations would take place with the press."

Mr Botha insisted, for the Government to indicate what its final position might be when it was still only "at the beginning of a process of discussion with the press."

Mr Botha said he would express any personal view on the Steyn proposals until he knew what the outcome of these negotiations were.

Spain given advice on rowdies

From Richard Wigg, Madrid, Feb 4

Perhaps the Basque country traditionally one of the regions of Spain feeling most good-will towards Britain, does not yet know what is going to hit it when English football supporters descend on Bilbao next June for the first of England's games in the World Cup finals.

So far even the taxi drivers have been seeking to learn some English as the Basque community generally prepares a welcome for an event seen as promising good football combined with good tourist trade.

But tomorrow Mr Neil Macfarlane, the Minister for Sport, will be in Madrid for talks designed to help the Spanish authorities cope should the minority element of hooligans who wreak havoc in and around English football games decide to come to Spain as well.

He will talk to Señora Soledad Becerril, Minister of Culture, who also has responsibility for sport. Mr Macfarlane's trip comes after a visit last month by officials trying to help with Britain's experience of the hooligan element.

Tempers rise in trade war

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Feb 4

Japan's failure to satisfy European demands for more open markets will be studied by the European Commission next Wednesday against the growing background of national demands for protectionist measures.

At the same time three European Commissioners will be in Washington bargaining with the American authorities over claims that Europe is dumping unwanted steel and agricultural products on the American market.

It was clear in Brussels today that tempers are rising on both trade fronts as one senior commission official held an informal briefing to tell journalists that if American harassment continued "there will be a good deal of blood on the floor."

He gave a warning that unless everybody stood by the rules "we could relapse into a chaos of bilateralism of the type which existed in 1939 with consequences of the kind for which many Europeans paid with their lives".

Nicaragua crushes 'plot' to split the country

Managua, Feb 4.—Nicaragua announced today that its security forces had smashed a "counter-revolutionary" plot to separate the eastern province of Zelaya, from the rest of the country and had arrested more than 100 people in the province.

Last week the United States State Department spokesman, Mr Alan Romberg, accused the Sandinista Government of oppressing Miskito Indians in Zelaya, a predominantly black, English-speaking province. The Nicaraguan Government denied the allegations.

Mr Romberg said the Sandinista Government had declared Zelaya a military zone and restricted travel in the region. The province, which is rich in resources, occupies about half of Nicaragua's territory.

Mr Romberg also said the Government had seized Zelaya's leading independent radio station, prohibiting circulation of the country's only independent newspaper, and expelled religious workers from the region.

In Managua today, the Defence Ministry spokesman, Captain Roberto Sanchez, claimed the plot had been led by Mr Steadman Fagott Muller, a Miskito Indian of part-German ancestry who formerly headed Misurasata, an organization representing three Indian tribes inhabiting Zelaya.

Mr Muller fled the country last May and now lives in neighbouring Honduras. The separatist movement, which Captain Sanchez said was called Operation Red Christmas, started last November.

He said the conspirators hoped to foster anti-government feelings among the residents of the province and start an uprising, thus paving the way for intervention by "foreign military forces that would support the separatist plan."

In addition to creating a "climate of terror" in the province, the conspirators had simultaneously planned to carry out an ideological-type campaign aimed at sowing confusion and aversion toward the Sandinista revolution," in Zelaya, Captain Sanchez said.

New York.—Cooling relations with the United States could push Nicaragua into the Cuban and Soviet camps, although Managua would prefer strengthened ties with Washington, Father Miguel d'Escoto, the Nicaraguan Foreign Minister said here today.

News in Summary

Air crash kills 31 legionnaires

Paris—Thirty-one foreign legionnaires and a five-man French Army crew were killed when their aircraft crashed during a training exercise in Djibouti, a Defence Ministry spokesman said.

There were no survivors when the plane struck a mountain in a desolate region of the former French East African colony. "As usual, the legionnaires were of various nationalities but no names will be released," the spokesman said. The cause of the crash was not known.

The legionnaires had just started a four-month training tour in Djibouti after arriving from Corsica. Djibouti gained independence from France in 1977 but French military units remain there under bilateral agreements.

Rubik cube world contest



Professor Erno Rubik, who will head an international jury for a world Rubik cube championship this spring.

Rules of the competition are to be announced in March. Professor Rubik said a time limit for solving the puzzle should be set as a condition of entry. The contest is to be organized by the Hungarian Konsumex Foreign Trade company and the Politechnika Industrial Cooperative.

Warship carries Crocker yacht

Port-of-Spain, Trinidad — A yacht on which Michael Crocker, the British yachtsman, was murdered by an intruder on Saturday morning has been taken to Curaçao, Dutch Antilles, on board the British warship Fearless.

Mr Crocker's widow Trisha is to return to Britain at the weekend with the body of her husband which will be buried at Henley of Tuesday.

Greece protests over buzzing

Athens — Greece has protested to the United States over the alleged violation of Greek airspace last Sunday by two American fighter jets, the Foreign Ministry said. The jets buzzed a Libyan airliner south of Crete.

Mr Ioannis Haralambopoulos, the Foreign Minister summoned Mr Montague Stearns, the American Ambassador, and delivered the protest. He then had talks with Mr Abdel Majid Gamoudi, the Libyan Ambassador.

Seoul police hold 11,500

Seoul — Police have arrested more than 11,500 people in the capital of South Korea in a four hour period (Jacqueline Rediff writes).

Nearly half of those involved committed traffic offences. More than 1,000 were said to be habitual hoodlums, 643 juvenile delinquents, 181 thieves, 104 were harassing citizens, while 4,064 were simply described as "others".

Haiti Cabinet reshuffled

Port-au-Prince — President Jean-Claude Duvalier of Haiti has reshuffled his Cabinet and made several changes in his top military command.

Five of the 15 Cabinet ministers were removed from their posts, three new under-secretaries of state were appointed, and the two top posts at Haiti's Central Bank were changed.

Proll sentence cut

Frankfurt — The West German Appeals Court reduced by six months the five and a half year sentence imposed two years ago on Astrid Proll, a former member of the Terrorist Red Army Group after her extradition from Britain.

The court ruled that Proll should be punished for her role in one bank robbery rather than two others for which a lower court found her guilty.

ETA shooting

Madrid — The military wing of ETA, the Basque separatist organization, have claimed responsibility for the shooting on a Spanish naval lieutenant as he was driving in a jeep through Zarauz, near San Sebastian. He is said to be satisfactory in hospital (Richard Wigg writes).

Polish Primate and Pope review crises

From Peter Nichols Rome, Feb 4

The Pope, at his first meeting with the Polish Primate, Mgr Jozef Glemp, since martial law was declared, today reviewed what chances remain of a change for the better in the Polish crisis.

Mgr Glemp was accompanied by two other prelates, Cardinal Kacharski, the Pope's successor as Archbishop of Cracow, and Mgr Henryk Gulbinowicz, Bishop of Wroclaw. The three prelates were speaking with the full authority of the whole national episcopal conference and reflect varying experiences and attitudes.

Wroclaw remains a centre of working class opposition to General Jaruzelski's regime. When Mgr Gulbinowicz left his diocese there were still reports of demonstrations, go-slows in factories and distribution of pamphlets critical of the Government.

The bishop will certainly have reflected this more belligerent attitude while the Archbishop of Cracow is still seen to be more patient. The atmosphere, however, is gloomy.

The nature of the meeting was described today at a high level in the Vatican as a reflection on what has happened and what we can expect in the future. There is now felt to have been sufficient experience of General Jaruzelski's Government to attempt an appraisal of the question of whether there can be hope for better things or whether "there is nothing to be seen but a continuing long black tunnel".

The three prelates went tonight to the Pope to begin their talks on their arrival in the late morning and were immediately given to understand that they were the Pope's luncheon guests. The survey will be exhaustive and may last until the eve of the Pope's departure for Nigeria on Friday next week.

This series of meetings has begun dramatically for more than one reason. The Pope is aware that his policy so far

has brought him more expressions of doubt and criticism than practical results. His last detailed survey with his advisers took place at the end of December when Mgr Luigi Poggi, his itinerant nuncio with a special brief of Poland, returned from his visit to Warsaw.

The policy agreed then was that every effort should be made to allow the regime to prove, if it wished, that it aspired to a degree of autonomy from the Soviet Union that, in the phrase used at the Pope's table at that time, General Jaruzelski conceivably might prove to be another Tito rather than a Russian puppet.

This fundamental decision meant that the Vatican could not even informally approve the United States policy of sanctions in so far as they were likely to embitter the situation still more by making hungry people hungrier.

The tone of the Pope's public appeals in the meantime has shown his growing anxiety with the failure of the regime to take to heart his demands for the recognition of human rights.

The Vatican's answer to allegations of being too moderate towards the military junta has been, and remains, that there is no moderation at all in the insistence on an end to mass arrests without trial and on support for the Solidarity free trade union movement.

This is the field in which the Roman Catholic Church feels that its weight can best be mobilized and so continue its historic role of a leading element in Polish national life in modern conditions. It remains the one institution with great popular support and so the one possible partner if the regime sincerely wants dialogue.

This is a vulnerable position and is one of the reasons, apart from questions of general principle, why the church would welcome the reinstatement of Solidarity as an active force. The fate of the union has been described at the Vatican as the key to the situation.

Zia closes Libyan centres

From Haslan Akhtar Islamabad.

Libyan "friendship centres" in Pakistan have been closed on the orders of the government. They have been operating for some time in Rawalpindi, Lahore, Karachi and Peshawar and are financed with Libyan money.

Their ostensible purpose was to foster closer contacts at people-to-people level. The reason for their closure by General Zia ul-Haq's Government was not disclosed.

Pakistan's relations with Libya since the late Mr Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's Government was ousted in 1977 have been uneasy. Mr Agha Shahi,

the Pakistan Foreign Minister, made an unannounced visit to Libya last month the object of which has never been explained.

Pakistan recently recalled 3,000 of its nationals who had been recruited for unspecified "security jobs" in Libya. It has been frequently reported that Libya is harbouring anti-Government Pakistanis and even financing some clandestine activities by the Al Zulfikar Movement headed by sons of Mr Bhutto, who was hanged after his fall from power.



Down to earth at 60 mph

Private Terry Bennett, aged 20, of the United States Army's elite Golden Knights parachute team, fell 8,500ft to the ground after his parachutes malfunctioned.

The tangled main and reserve canopies slowed her descent, but her speed when she hit the ground near Fort Bragg, North Carolina, was still estimated at between 60 and 70 miles an hour. She escaped with a dislocated elbow, two broken bones in her wrist, and a chipped right ankle bone.

Private Bennett, who has completed 850 jumps, said her parachutes had tangled like "a big bag of garbage". She landed in a ploughed, muddy field, which absorbed most of the shock.—Reuter.

Demand for purge of left in China

Peking, Feb 4. — A senior Chinese official called today for a purge of remaining leftists in the Communist Party hierarchy as China planned further reductions in radical influence in its bureaucracy.

Mrs Zhang Yun, a member of the influential party disciplinary committee, wrote in the ideological journal Red Flag that followers of the disgraced Maoist "Gang of Four" still held high positions and were sabotaging party policy.

Diplomatic sources said Mrs Zhang's article was the strongest appeal for a purge to appear so far in China's two-month-old campaign against bureaucratic practices.

Mrs Zhang, one of the few women in the higher echelons of China's leadership, said getting rid of leftist influence was one of the main problems facing the party. She accused many members of using their position for personal gain.

She said the problem to a large extent arose because the party, now 39 million strong, had doubled in size during the Cultural Revolution of 1966-76, when leftists held almost total sway.

To support her case, Mrs Zhang quoted a speech by Mr Deng Xiaoping, the powerful

Vice-Chairman, who said in January 1980: "Among party members who joined the party under the extreme leftist line, some have never been educated by the party. They should not be held up as models for the masses and are not up to standard." Mrs Zhang also quoted from a previously unpublished report by the disciplinary committee which attacked corrupt party members in unusually strong terms.

The report also said many officials "have changed from servants of the people to old gentlemen who ride on the backs of the people, tyrannically abusing their powers".

CIA and last days of the Shah



In the wake of the Shah: A supporter of President Bani-Sadr lies dead in the battle for fundamentalism

Seething dissent that Washington ignored

From Michael Hamlyn New York, Feb 4

A fascinating description of the closing stages of the rule of the Shah of Iran is being extracted here from the 13 volumes of documents seized when the United States Embassy in Tehran was invaded. They have now been published in Iran.

One striking feature of the detailed reports from the American diplomats and Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) men is how accurate they reflected what was going on, and how well they forecast the future events.

The public statements of the Carter Administration, apart to some extent the official high-level reports being offered by the Ambassador conflicted with the ground-level intelligence reporting and with reports from middle-rank diplomats. Hitherto the CIA has been blamed for providing inaccurate assessments of the Shah's weakness and the mullahs' strength. This is now seen as less than fair to the agents on the ground.

The picture drawn by the documents is of a Shah surrounded by a corrupt and venal court, blackmailing Washington into vastly excessive arms purchases, while a seething religious leadership built up more and more strength in the mosques and bazaars.

Extracts from the documents published in the Washington Post over the past few days show that doubts about the stability of the regime appeared in secret estimates from the CIA and State Department analysts two full years before the Iranian revolution.

They also reported that the overthrow of arms to the Shah caused some worrying questions to be asked. For example a major intelligence review drawn up by Mr David Blee in 1976, then the national intelligence officer for the Middle East, said: "Washington does not have a clear perception of the Shah's long-range objectives, for example, why is he acquiring such a vast array of sophisticated military hardware. The Shah states that adequate defences



Peacock splendour: The Shah, his wife and son at the unveiling of the Reza Shah monument to 50 years of the Pahlavi dynasty in 1976.

against communist-equipped Iraq are merely precautionary, yet the placement of new bases suggests other intentions."

The intelligence officers did admit that their information was "poor", as critics have insisted; but the blame must go, the documents point out, to the lack of cooperation they got from the United States military.

The military intelligence arm responsible for liaison with the Shah's huge military machine was extremely loath to pass on information.

Nor were the intelligence men well informed about the simple basics of decision-making within the Shah's Government. Behind the Shah decided everything for himself, or did he delegate broad authority to others, are questions that were debated in the documents with no satisfactory conclusions reached.

But where the documents were extremely accurate was in their assessment of the role to be played by the clergy. As early as 1976, a year before President Carter described Iran as "an island of stability", the CIA was reporting "in the eyes of the religious leaders, Muhammad

Reza has betrayed an essential element of his role, protection of Islam. The present generation of religious leaders, moreover, seems to be convinced that the Shah, as his father before him, is determined to destroy Islam in Iran."

The CIA even estimated that "probably no more than 10 per cent of the clergy... can be counted as outright supporters of the Shah". These "are probably the least influential of the clergy and are considered by many to be no better than government employees".

More important, the report said "probably 50 per cent are in outright opposition to the Government and are wholly dependent on their popular following for support. This includes nearly every religious leader of any stature".

Another CIA report describes bluntly the near isolation of the Shah and the character of those surrounding him: "The royal court has traditionally been a hotbed of Byzantine scheming. In the Shah's family are an assortment of licentious and financially corrupt relatives..."

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Kennedy taped Oval office calls

Boston, Massachusetts, Feb 4 — President John Kennedy secretly recorded conversations and telephone calls with world leaders, congressmen and his aides while he was in the White House, Mr Dan Fenn, the director of the Kennedy Library said today.

"I have no reason to think they knew they were being taped," Mr Fenn said of the people recorded in 100 to 140 hours of taped meetings and conversations. The tapes are being examined at the library here in preparation for their release to the public, possibly this summer.

Mr Fenn said 250 telephone conversations and 325 meetings in the Oval Office in the White House were recorded from mid-1962 to November 1963, 15 days before the President was assassinated.

Among those recorded in telephone calls were Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia, General Douglas MacArthur, Dr Billy Graham, the evangelist and Mr Adlai Stevenson, the United States representative at the United Nations under President Kennedy. The list also includes members of Congress, according to an index of the tapes that Mr Fenn had.

The subjects of the conversations included Vietnam, the Cuban missile crisis, the integration of the University of Mississippi and civil rights in general.

"I haven't the vaguest idea why Kennedy used the tapes or saved them," Mr Fenn said. "I hope we'll be able to open some of them early this summer. When they're available, they'll be available to anyone, junior high school students, Arthur Schlesinger or anyone."

Any potentially classified material will be referred to the originating agency, which will decide whether to keep it classified or allow the museum to release it.

Miss Evelyn Lincoln, Kennedy's personal secretary, was quoted by the Washington Post today as saying that the President threw a switch as a signal to her start taping. She would activate either a recorder attached to his telephone or microphones in the Oval Office.

According to the report, the most frequent names listed among participants were Robert Kennedy, the Attorney-General, and brother of the President, Mr Dean Rusk, the Secretary of State, and Mr Robert McNamara.

The identities of six of the people Kennedy had spoken to and recorded, as well as the subject matter of their conversations, were blacked out on the log obtained by the newspaper.

The existence of some Kennedy tapes — but not their extent — had been known ever since a statement by Mr Fenn in 1973. The Kennedy family handed over the tapes to the library in 1976.

A secret taping system installed by President Nixon led to his resignation during the Watergate scandal, when it was revealed that the recorded conversations varied from his statements on the affair. Mr Nixon's system, unlike President Kennedy's, was voice-activated, and contained about 4,000 hours of conversation.

GIBRALTAR GUARANTEE IS SOUGHT

From Richard Wigg Madrid, Feb 4

Gibraltar and its future statute as an integral part of Spain would be the central theme of talks between Britain and Spain starting on April 20, Señor José Pedro Pérez Llorca, the Spanish Foreign Minister, told Parliament in Madrid today.

The talks will open near Lisbon on the same day Spain lifts its blockade of Gibraltar. Señor Pérez Llorca said Spain would seek guarantees of identical treatment for its nationals with those for the Gibraltarians.

He was reporting to the foreign affairs committee of the Lower House on last month's talks in London between Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo, the Spanish Prime Minister.

The Foreign Minister emphasized: "The one thing Spain will not accept of anybody is the possibility to dispose of the future of a territory which is an integral part of Spain and whose future statute will be the central theme."

American social issues, I

Right wingers stir up new busing battle

This article by Peter David is the first of three by Our Washington Staff on social issues facing the American Congress.

A week after hearing President Reagan promise to continue America's "long journey towards civil rights for all our citizens", Congress is bracing itself for a legislative confrontation over the emotionally-charged issue of school busing.

With the backing of conservative Republicans who control the Senate, two senators — Mr Orrin Hatch of Utah and Mr John East of North Carolina — are introducing a Bill which would abolish forced busing in all but a few exceptional cases.

Liberal Republicans and Democrats alike have sworn to oppose the Bill at every stage of its passage through Congress. And civil rights leaders have promised that if it is ever approved the Bill will be challenged in the Supreme Court.

The move against busing is one of a number of proposed Bills which the Republican right wing is pushing rapidly forward in the new session to enact the conservative social agenda delayed last year while President Reagan's economic programme was being steered through Congress.

Busing is high on this agenda because for nearly two decades it has been viewed by liberals as a symbol of racial desegregation, and by conservatives as a specially outrageous example of federal interference with the personal choices of citizens.

The Bill has already been welcomed by the Senate Judiciary committee, an intra-party move which Senator Strom Thurmond of South Carolina, a leading Republican hawk, is a leading Republican hawk.

Connecticut, a liberal Republican, intends to use every possible parliamentary delaying tactic to block the legislation in the Senate and marshal public opposition to the measure.

Moreover, the Bill will not even be debated in the House of Representatives unless its supporters can outflank the liberal House judiciary committee by collecting enough signatures for a discharge petition — a rarely used procedure to force debate on a Bill rejected in committee.

Critics of busing say that bringing black children into schools which were previously predominantly white has lowered standards and inflamed the racial tensions the policy was intended to reduce.

Supporters of busing claim the Bill would undermine the Supreme Court's historic ruling in 1954 outlawing racial segregation. And they say that by stripping federal courts of their power to enforce long-standing civil rights laws, the Bill would be unconstitutional infringement by Congress of the jurisdiction of courts.

President Reagan is against identifying too closely with the Bill, although he opposes forced busing in principle. But the President is likely to be dragged into the controversy if the Bill is ever approved.

Mr Arthur Flemming, whom the President recently dismissed as chairman of the Commission on Civil Rights, after it published a report calling for stronger administration support of busing, said the commission would ask the President to veto the Bill if it were approved by Congress. If he refused, the Bill would be challenged in court on constitutional grounds.

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Britain tries to stop Vietnam aid by Europe

From David Watts, Bangkok, Feb 4

Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, has agreed to use his influence in Europe to try to prevent any further aid going to Vietnam from EEC countries.

The Foreign Secretary gave a pledge to make Thai views known when he met Air Chief Marshal Sithi Savetsila, the Thai Foreign Minister, today.

Britain and Thailand share the United States view that no assistance should go to Vietnam while its troops remain in Cambodia. Both France and the EEC Commission have given assistance to Vietnam against the wishes of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean).

France has given aid worth £20m and the Commission gave emergency medical aid to Vietnam last December worth £175,000 through non-governmental agencies. The Commission aid was opposed by five EEC countries.

The French assistance, which has particularly annoyed the South-East Asian countries, was given in the belief that Vietnam should be encouraged to give up its dependence on the Soviet Union.

It comes at a time when the French are assuming a more active diplomatic role in Indo-China and before projected contacts at foreign minister level with Hanoi this spring. There is speculation among Bangkok diplomats that the French may be contemplating some *démarche* over the future of Cambodia.

The discussions today were largely confined to the views of the views of both Britain and Thailand about which there is "a broad measure of agreement", both seeing advantage in putting pressure on the Khmer Rouge to join the loose opposition coalition.

The British see the statement of Datuk Sri Mahatir Prime Minister, Mahatir, as a withdrawal of support for the Khmer Rouge at the United Nations as a tactical move.

After his meeting with the Foreign Minister, Lord Carrington went on to pay a call on General Prem Tinsulanonda, the Thai Prime Minister. This afternoon he saw Major-General Chaochai Choonlay, the Minister of Industry, being joined later for a plenary session with the eight leading British businessmen who are accompanying him on his tour of the five Asian countries.

Tomorrow Lord Carrington flies to the Cambodian border to see a refugee camp with 40,000 Cambodians; visit Nong Samet settlement of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, only a short distance from Vietnamese forces; and see a camp holding about 1,000 Vietnamese who have left Vietnam and travelled overland through Cambodia.

At Nong Samet, Lord Carrington will watch a distribution of food and meet British aid workers. Britain and the EEC have contributed more than £30m from public and private sources since the programme to feed Cambodian refugees began.

Britain has recently given £55,000 to the United Nations anti-piracy programme in the Gulf of Thailand. Virtually every vessel carrying Vietnamese refugees is attacked by pirates at some point.

In the afternoon Lord Carrington flies to the northern city of Chiang Mai where he will have the rare honour for a foreign minister of an audience with King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

Expulsion hearing for doctor adjourned

From Trevor Fishlock, Calcutta, Feb 4

A British doctor who has been working for two years among the slum and pavement dwellers of Calcutta appeared in court here today to fight a deportation order.

Dr Jack Preger, who is 51 and was born in Manchester, was expelled from India last summer but returned shortly afterwards in defiance of the authorities to continue his work among the poor.

He was arrested and jailed for nine days in August. He has been carrying on his work while the unhurried legal processes have ground on.

A few minutes before today's hearing Dr Preger's lawyer asked him for some money. The doctor refused, saying he had already been given some, and the lawyer announced he was too ill to take the case. The papers were then given to another lawyer.

In the small, dark courtroom, a nightmare of stacked dusty files, the magistrate looked down at the lawyers and said: "This case must be expedited. Do not be sluggish." He then adjourned the proceedings until Saturday.

Dr Preger, who was educated at Oxford University, first came to India in 1979. He had been working in Bangladesh but was expelled after alleging that a number of children sent to Europe for adoption had been used in pornography.

He started working with Mother Teresa's organization in Calcutta and eventually began working on his own, supported by donations from American missionary societies.

Although he had a work permit for some time, the authorities would not renew it and Dr Preger carried on without one until the deportation was served. He believes the Bangladesh Government has asked the West Bengal Government to expel him because he had demonstrated frequently, with placards, at the Bangladesh High Commission office in Calcutta against an alleged trade in children.

Robin Marris steps up the debate on our universities with an open letter to Sir Keith Joseph and a challenging international comparison of the costs of higher education

Why British graduates are the best value for money in the world



1978 Figures

	First-Degree Students per Thousand Population	Percentage First-Deg. Students Graduating Annually	First-Degree Awarded Annually per Thousand Population	Total Real Teaching and Admin. Cost per First-Degree	University Teachers per Thousand University Students
Belgium	10.9	17.5	1.91	22,303	
Canada	21.7	18.8	4.08		57.9
Denmark	19.3	9.0	1.74	39,666	
Finland	18.0	16.0	2.56		98.1
France	11.7	15.3	1.78	13,764	49.5
Germany	14.6	9.5	1.39	28,516	123.9
Italy	17.2	7.6	1.29	17,027	41.3
Japan	15.6	18.3	2.85		82.3
Netherlands	9.9	7.3	0.72	60,205	94.8
Sweden	19.3	12.3	1.64		
Switzerland	8.7	10.7	0.93		71.1
U.K.	7.0	28.2	1.78	22,507	88.7
U.S.A.	40.8	13.9	5.67		64.9
Average	15.9	13.9	2.18	29,141	78.2

Sources: University, EC (European) and author's calculations. "Real" costs are calculated by converting money values originally given in national currencies into £100, at exchange rates that have been adjusted to reflect each country's comparative internal purchasing power. First Year costs include department fees, non-university institutions and society (University students on non-degree-level courses). Last column relates to all students and teachers at universities only.

'If this country is to recover her confidence and prosperity she needs more graduates, not fewer'

Sir Keith Joseph: all the facts?

It turns out, in universities, you and your colleagues are fond of the rather precise concept of national comparisons of higher education statistics are invalid. You are wrong. There is an international standard for educational statistics, and in my table I use the rather precise concept of students enrolled on courses leading to first university degree or equivalent qualification. This eliminates some students at some countries' universities, and brings in many of our own students at polytechnics and colleges of education.

Of course there is variation in the quality of a first degree, but unlike you or any of your ministers, Sir, I have taught at universities throughout the world. I have taught American students in hundreds and European students in hundreds.

I have administered an American economics department teaching 6,000 students. These experiences have taught me that there is much more comparability internationally than most people suppose. In any event, if we could make some adjustments for "quality", the results would always tend to favour the UK.

Expensive? It is true that the economic cost of teaching and administration per

student enrolled in higher education is comparatively high in this country. This, however, is more than compensated by superior efficiency in the educational process. In Britain, 25 per cent of students enrolled in first-degree courses graduate every year. In other non-communist developed countries the average figure is just under 14 per cent.

No other country comes near the British performance; the nearest is Belgium, with 19 per cent, the lowest developed countries for which there is data are Italy and The Netherlands, both around 7 per cent.

As a result of this striking discrepancy the real cost of producing a British graduate is well below the European average. (Please see the table, unfortunately statistics are not available for comparisons with North America and Japan.)

It might be argued that these numbers merely mean that British universities produce inferior graduates. I doubt that you or any other reasonably informed observer would seriously entertain that explanation.

The reason such a high proportion of British students graduate every year compared with other coun-

Professor Robin Marris: cost-effective graduates

tries is not that they have been taught less but that they have been taught, and have studied, more intensively. They are also, rightly or wrongly, more highly selected. So only a small proportion of those admitted fail to graduate, and the great majority graduate quickly, having learned as much or more as students in other countries in a shorter time.

In some other countries drop-out rates are as high as 50 per cent and average time for successful students is as much as six years.

Elitist? Yes, we do indeed have the lowest enrolment of first-degree students of any developed, non-communist country. Whether this means we are elitist depends on concepts. In my view, a student is a unit of work in progress. The product is the graduate. In the most recent year, 1978, for which I can obtain comparable data from other countries, see table, Britain produced approximately 1.76 new graduates for every 1,000 inhabitants. The world average for the 13 countries in my table was 2.18. The European average (10 countries) was 1.53. The average for North America and Japan was 4.20.

I suggest these results provide not an iota of

support for a policy of reducing the number further. If this country is to recover her confidence and prosperity she needs more graduates, not fewer. The fact that the proportion of the population going through a phase of decline is quite irrelevant. What matters to a modern society is the ultimate stock of graduates per head of population. Any country that allows that statistic to decline is allowing herself to decline.

Polemics concluded, may I now offer you some concrete suggestions? I assume that you will be completely convinced by my argument that we should not be aiming to reduce the cultural level of our society by reducing graduates per capita. So you must at once reverse your policy of physically restraining future student numbers. But you are fully entitled to insist that the anti-inflationary impact of your policies be nevertheless retained.

You can safeguard this by maintaining the cash cuts you have already imposed while letting individual institutions determine their own response. Some institutions may respond by increasing the number of qualified students admitted. Others may opt for cash salary cuts; their individual contribution, as it were, to the battle against public sector inflation.

Some may do both (and given our financial system, it is in many cases impossible to do the one without the other).

I rather think you believe that the policy is what you are already doing. Not so. You are imposing physical limits on student numbers. Almost equally serious is an imposition being put around by the Association of University Teachers, they are saying, Sir, that if a group of academics accepted a voluntary salary cut you would merely reduce the grant to that institution *pro rata*.

My most concrete proposal is to challenge that you publicly deny that incredible suggestion. It is incredible, of course, because it is laid at the door of a monetarist government that claims to believe that the control of cash, rather than of "real" quantities, is to be found the secret of deflation.

Finally we reach what I know to be your most difficult problem: student numbers. At present, more than £1,000 a year they are a major burden on central government finance. They are also the envy of the world. They also confer a deserved benefit on the upwardly mobile "social class".

These taxpaying citizens whose children have worked hard to get the qualifications for university admission produce many Tory voters of a type that could easily swing the Liberal/SDP Alliance. You are well aware that if you reduce the scale of grants, or freeze them in cash terms, you could lose a lot of votes.

So you are trying to produce a "result indirectly" by physically restraining university admissions and thus the number of qualified grant applicants. To accuse a politician of cowardice is like accusing a whore of frigidity. But to accuse a Conservative politician of putting party interest above national interest is to accuse God of sin.

I am sure, Sir Keith, you would not like to go down in history with such a thing as "your head". Please think again.

The author is Professor of Economics at Birkbeck College, University of London.

Peking's offer seen as ploy

Peking. — China's offer to negotiate a time limit on American arms sales to Taiwan was seen by Western

Junta's economic battle

Argentina cuts forces spending

From Andrew McLeod, Buenos Aires, Feb 4

The military Government of General Leopoldo Fortunato Galtieri, facing a barrage of criticism over its economic policies, has announced a 10 per cent cut in armed forces spending for this year as part of a drive to reduce the state apparatus and set Argentina on the road to economic recovery.

State wages have been frozen, prestige projects such as motorways have been scrapped or temporarily shelved, and the Government has plans to sell off many of Argentina's sacred institutions, including the debt-ridden Yacimientos Petroliferos Fiscales (YPF), the state oil company, and the inefficient state telephone company.

The military's budget cuts are seen here as a step in the right direction — about £2,000m were spent on arms purchases between 1978 and 1979, according to calculations by Senator Alvaro Alsogaray the former Economy Minister. But many sceptical Argentines recall that a similar denationalization programme was promised six years ago, when the military took power from President Isabel Peron, but was never carried out.

In the eyes of political parties, who scented blood when the military's second President, General Roberto Viola, was overthrown last December, denationalization is akin to treason. Pamphlets deploring the alleged new "colonization" of Argentina were scattered in Buenos Aires streets recently. The junta, determined to keep a firm rein on dissent, made several arrests.

Government officials tend to play down the economic



President Galtieri: Surprised at the vehemence of the criticism

crisis, and Señor Juan Alemann, the Economy Minister, is quietly confident that he will pull the country out of the mire before the end of the year.

But he faces a monumental task: the foreign debt now stands at £15,000m, foreign reserves fell 50 per cent in a year to £2,000m and the public debt now amounts to about £8,500m.

In addition, inflation is running at 131.1 per cent, among the highest in the world last year, an estimated 1,500,000 are out of work, and there are no unemployment benefits.

In a television interview, Señor Alemann said he would stop printing money in June, get the Government out of business and refrain from interfering in trade.

The question is, will he be allowed to? The Government faces a crisis of confidence in the armed forces, and the army high command jailed General Juan Carlos Onganía, a former military President,

for a month for statements predicting an end to the economic liberalism on Argentina. The retired general is said to have the support of some of the more nationalist lower-ranking officers, who are unwilling to see about 40 military-run companies sold to private enterprise.

President Galtieri appears surprised at the vehemence of the criticism directed at his Government so soon after assuming office. When touring a new children's hospital last week he told a group of pensioners who were telling him "Remember, I will be an old pensioner, too, some day". A woman replied: "Yes, but you will not be receiving the minimum pension." The President turned away, irritated.

An official said last week that the patience of Argentine workers was wearing thin. He told the weekly news magazine, *Sur*, that the trade unions had the patience with the two previous military governments. "Because we were asked to give the Government time to solve the country's problems... but the Government did not make use of our cooperation. We were deceived."

The multi-party grouping, which includes the Justicialists (Peronists), the powerful Radicals, the Christian Democrats, the Movement for Integration and Development and the Intransigent Party, is strongly opposed to the Government's economic policies and is expected to call for a national strike later this week. Peronist sources say the unions have already promised the political parties their support for the strike.

Anger at British 'snub' to acid rain talks

From Tony Samstag, Brussels, Feb 4

European environmentalists are angry at the refusal of Mr Michael Heseltine, the Secretary of State for the Environment, to attend a ministerial conference on acid rain in Stockholm next June. Of 15 European countries that have so far responded to the invitation, only the British are sending an official of less than ministerial rank.

Collective European anger at the British, who are held responsible for much of the long-range airborne pollution that affects a large area of central and northern Europe, was evident at a seminar on the subject in Brussels that ended yesterday.

Members of the European Environmental Bureau, which represents about 70 national conservation agencies and pressure groups, consistently criticised what they see as a lack of urgency in controlling emissions of sulphur dioxide, in particular over Scandinavia because of an unfortunate coincidence of air stream

patterns and the use of very high smokestacks intended to disperse the pollutants as widely as possible.

Mr Mats Segnestam, executive director of the Swedish Society for the Conservation of Nature, said Mr Heseltine's refusal of the Stockholm invitation was "a scandal". A recent visit to Britain by Mr Anders Dahlgren, the Swedish Minister of Agriculture, had confirmed Scandinavian suspicions that the British were "trying to duck the issue", he added.

The Department of the Environment in London confirmed today that Mr Giles Shaw, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for the Environment, was planning to attend the Stockholm meeting, but, a spokesman added, no snub was intended. "This is the way that ministerial business is conducted", he said. The Government was extremely sensitive to the issue of acid rain.

"Acid rain" is a shorthand expression for the effects of certain kinds of air pollution

CHALLENGE TO HAND GUNS BAN

From Christopher Thomas, New York, Feb 4

The influential gun lobby in the United States is about to launch its first important legal challenge against the small Illinois town of Morton Grove, where it has been illegal since last Monday to possess a handgun.

The National Rifle Association, which has a million fee-paying members and is by far the richest of the pro-gun groups, is financing an appeal by two Morton Grove residents to the Illinois Supreme Court.

The case will centre on an interpretation of the Illinois constitution, which says: "Subject only to the police power, the right of an individual citizen to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed."

If that fails, the NRA will take its challenge to federal law and argue that Morton Grove's ban violates the Second Amendment to the American Constitution which gives a qualified right to possess arms.

Capitalizing on the comprehensives

I don't know how far journalists associated with the *Morning Star* approve of best-selling books that celebrate the capitalist market-place, but I hope that they are all pleased with their colleague Robert Leeson's recent achievement. Ever since *The Times* began to publish lists of best-selling books his name has appeared in one chart or another, and now *Penguin* books are celebrating the sale of the one millionth copy of the three books in his paperback "Grange Hill" series.



Properly enough the sale has taken place in a school — in the school bookshop in Norththorpe Middle School, Norththorpe, and this should be doubly satisfying for Mr Leeson. For while it suits nicely the character of the series as a portrayal of contemporary school life, it also acknowledges the author's acceptance of his books as a partner in the success. Robert Leeson is not merely dismissive of writers who write only for themselves — "the quiescence of bourgeois egotism" — he actively seeks the help of young readers in the planning and writing of his books.

What may also be satisfying to Mr Leeson about his rapidly won fame (the first "Grange Hill" book appeared in 1980) is that it may help to advance his campaign "to change the landscape of children's literature". For the "Grange Hill" books are not just retellings of the plots from the successful television series — although the writer of that series, Phil Redmond, is always acknowledged in the book's covers and in their imprints. The stories are instead freshly conceived, self-contained adventures, using the characters known to the television audience.

The existence of this ready-made fictional comprehensive school with its mixture of social groups was a useful ground-plan for a writer who looks to make

slangy quips of home comprehensives, and every book contains little incidents of natural comedy, usually inspired by Tucker Jenkins. But as the stories progress from the carefully worked-out, carefully-timed *Grange Hill* Rules OK through the pastoral *Grange Hill Goes Wild* to *Grange Hill for Sale*, what craftsmanship there was given way to a set of predictable manipulations. Plotting is ever more laconic (in imitation of television story-lines). Characters turn to pasteboard. Political issues fraught with worrying complexity are reduced to plot-maker's cement and stuck on like ornaments around the edges.

It is pointless to speculate if these books about Grange Hill would have sold a million copies if they had not been boosted by the long-running children's soap opera. Their growing resemblance to the mass-market school story of past times suggests that the right kind of formula has been discovered. The landscape is still recognizable. Grayfriars and Malory Towers are not very far away even if there is some attempted rape going on now, and some fascist demonstrations — and even if Mr Leeson can't spell "Jodhpurs".

Brian Alderson

THE ARTS

Television

Guarded humour

Queen Mary asked him to sing his uncensored version of "When I'm Cleaning Windows", the Russians voted him second favourite to Stalin — which meant, if you think about it, he was probably No 1 — and he was earning £100,000 a year in 1938 as Britain's most loved film star. It seems George Formby had only one piece of bad luck: his wife, Beryl, was the proverbial ball near-trap teeth, clattering ukulele and giggling innuendo were the props of a marital prisoner under strict guard, on and off set.

His father, a famous Edwardian comedian, had meant him to be a jockey and sent him off as an apprentice but, when father died, George junior — who had not won a race — took to the boards and before long was fancying one of two clog-dancing sisters from Accrington.

The George Formby Story, presented by Forty Minutes on BBC 2 last night, suggested that George never ceased fancying women but, after he had caught Beryl, fancying was as far as he could go. The melon mouth, the clog, the ukulele and giggling innuendo were the props of a marital prisoner under strict guard, on and off set.

In his films he only managed to kiss one leading lady, Googie Withers, and Phyllis Calvert, who made *Let George Do It* with him in 1940, testified that Beryl's security was so good that he only managed to appear in her dressing room door for a brief but eloquent "Ee, I'm crazy about you."

That film, in which George, in a dream sequence, punched Hitler on the nose, was said to have raised morale to its highest level during the war. This was the film the Russians saw which ran for a year, re-named *Dinky Doo*, in Moscow, and which might have Uncle Joe been a more fair-minded chap, have given a lead from Wigan the No 2 position for a May Day parade.

During the war, where Churchill went George was likely to follow. He was the first entertainer to visit the Middle East and altogether entertained some three million Allied troops. And Beryl went, too.

After the war it all sagged a little but in the Fifties he was back at the top in *Zip Goes a Million* until a heart attack cut him short and Beryl confined him to the house. Beryl, of course.

Then cancer struck Beryl and she turned to the bottle. Michael Dean, who wrote and narrated this excellent essay in nostalgia, reported that during this period George was about to reveal to Beryl that he had denied him the solace of the Catholic Church but, in her illness, George stuck by her and testified on television to her contribution.

She died in 1960. George shocked everyone who had not glimpsed the chains or heard the rattle by announcing his engagement to a young Catholic schoolteacher six weeks later. Within two weeks of that, he had a heart attack and died. It had not turned out nice again after all. Now his films and the determined strumming of the George Formby Society ensure that the memory lingers on.

It was a happy, sad story, well produced by Ann Paul with good witnesses in Hand, Tommy Trinder, Bill Logan and Phyllis Calvert: another well-occupied Forty Minutes.

Dennis Hackett

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CHRISTOPHER HAMPTON
from the novel by
GEORGE STEINER
Directed by JOHN DEXTER

PREVIEWS FEB 11-16

Cinema

Masterly vision of moral collapse

The Contract (AA)

Gate, Camden Town

Polish Cinema:

The Non-Realists

National Film Theatre

A Girl From

Lorraine (AA)

Academy

Deadly Blessing (X)

Studio, Oxford Street;

Classic, Haymarket

Hell Night (X)

Classics, Oxford Street,

Leicester Square

If there were more picturegoers in the Foreign Office and the State Department, diplomatic understanding of the Polish situation might well be more profound. Looking back over the whole of cinema history, it is not too much to say that at no time have artists so clearly expressed the crisis and the conscience of a nation as did the Polish film-makers from the late Seventies to the end of 1981.

The latest issue of *Sight and Sound* contains one of the last interviews with Andrzej Wajda before the December takeover. The interviewer, Gustaw Moszczyński, comments: "In the context of a degenerating political system which encouraged nepotism rather than intelligence, Wajda's cinema was one of the last bastions of honesty, integrity and genuine democratic ideas." His films captivated Polish audiences through their ability to summarize and encapsulate the byzantine complexities of the Polish state, vivid visual statements of the social malaise. Increasingly they became vehicles for dramatic analysis of the collapse of social morality, destroying the lives of private, impotent individuals.

The authorities were keenly aware of Wajda's effort. In 1978 *Index* reprinted parts of a code of practice spirited out by some mole in the Polish censor's office, the year before. "His theatrical and film output and the interviews he gives", concluded the censorship, "demonstrate that, in ideological and political terms, he is not with

us. He takes the stand, often met with in artists, of an 'impartial judge' of the history of our days."

Alongside Wajda stands Krzysztof Zanussi, whose films — in particular the triptych formed by *Camouflage*, *The Constant Factor* and *The Contract* — have few parallels as analyses of moral decay and self-deceit. *The Contract* is the last of them to arrive in London and seems in retrospect the most remarkable. I first saw it at a preview in the Warsaw television studios in the early summer of 1980, at the moment of the first reports of strikes on the Baltic coast. At that time it seemed very remarkable for its outspokenness; but it is only now, with the hindsight of the succeeding 18 months, that we can wholly appreciate this microcosm of a society on the verge of moral collapse.

Like a lot of the most profound social and moral analyses in art — like Sterne, Chekhov, Bunuel or Renoir's *La Règle du Jeu*, with which *The Contract* has some superficial resemblance — it carries its wisdom lightly. For the first time Zanussi works through laughter, and shows himself a master of the comedy that borders on farce.

The film is the story of a wedding party, and of the family, and guests who bravely try to keep up appearances even though the bride flees from the altar and the groom ends up setting the house on fire. The opening scene, where the horses of the privileged almost run down an innocent citizen, a little old lady who is only trying to feed the birds, is a metaphor which comes in handy for ulterior reflection: this is that destruction of "the lives of private, impotent individuals".

The marriage begins far from auspiciously as the guests arrive for the civil formalities which precede the church ceremony, though the groom's father beams persistently through every setback. His first wife, the groom's mother, arrives hatchet-faced and unforgiving. The bride's father, some sort of officialdom and deplores such demonstrations of democracy as inviting his driver to eat with the guests. Foreign relations and friends add to the dismay and confusion: "How damned rude", says the bride's father, "to come here unable to speak a word of Polish".

The comedy builds up as the party moves on to the ritz villa just built by the groom's father — a cardiologist with some evidently very profitable business sidelines. There are high jinks in the Swedish sauna, a kleptomaniac at large, a couple locked in the bathroom, a pack of fierce dogs on the rampage, the groom drunk out of his mind, the aged nanny wandering off all resentment into



Patience against flamboyance: Mayya Komarowska (left) and Leslie Caron in "The Contract"

the night and snow; and the cat has done something dreadful under the carpet. The groom's father rekindles an old flame for his flamboyant French sister-in-law (Leslie Caron); his wife (Mayya Komarowska) looks patiently on, the single representative of comparative sanity and solidity.

The guest of honour, a Minister, makes a regal descent. Everyone, it turns out, is intent on trading what favours he can. The Minister eyes a seductive woman and asks if it is a car or flat she needs. Everyone is on the make, down to the passing punk who wants a medical certificate to excuse himself from school the morning after. Not even the Church itself can stand outside the universal game of bending, breaking or evading the rules.

Zanussi's structure is masterly. The farce escalates; the laughter grows desperate and suddenly dies away; the calm Komarowska is left alone with the little bride, now returned and chastened as they wander in the woods. "What has happened — all this mess within us and around us? Where will it lead?" Now, of course, we know.

Zanussi as writer-director is both deep and lucid. His special genius is the ability to pose the most fundamental problems, of how to live, how to discover some constant values for existence in a historical situation (given modern parallels) with which Polish film-makers were long forbidden to deal. Agnieszka Holland's *Fever* adapts a complex novel by Andrzej Strug about a frustrated terrorist attempt. Wojciech Marczewski's *Sex Pleasure We're British* (John Paul II. *From a Far Country*) When it was shown in Venice in September that film was received with some hostility. Last week the

Manila Festival gave a fresh opportunity to see it and to discover that with the perspective of the months between we can better recognize the film's stature, alongside Wajda's *Man of Iron*, as an epic witness of Poland's history.

There are some personal footnotes to *The Contract*. Tadeusz Lomnicki, who plays the groom's father, is now barely recognizable as the idealistic young hero of Wajda's early classic *A Generation*; in the years since then he has become an important political figure within the Party. Mayya Komarowska, who plays his wife, is still in Warsaw, giving less time now to acting than to organizing food and other relief for internees. The jolly, plump comedienne who sings at the wedding, and is later prominent at the party, is now in prison. She is an actress whose career, except for the *Solidarity* months, has long been curtailed because of political disapproval: few directors except Zanussi (she also appears in *Camouflage*, though her name is not found on the credit titles) have been prepared to give her work in films.

Next week the National Film Theatre is presenting a short season of some of the less significant Polish films of the past year or so. The most interesting among them are period pieces set in the early years of the century when much of Poland was a part of Imperial Russia — a delicate historical situation (given modern parallels) with which Polish film-makers were long forbidden to deal. Agnieszka Holland's *Fever* adapts a complex novel by Andrzej Strug about a frustrated terrorist attempt. Wojciech Marczewski's *Sex Pleasure We're British* (John Paul II. *From a Far Country*) When it was shown in Venice in September that film was received with some hostility. Last week the

dren on Strike draws more obvious contemporary parallels from its story of children striking against receiving religious education in the German language.

Claude Goretta's *La Provinciale* (shown here as *A Girl from Lorraine*) exemplifies the Swiss director's gentle, affectionate observation in its portrait of an individual fighting for a place in a society that is not so much hostile as merely indifferent. Christine comes from Lorraine, where she cannot find work, in the hopes of finding some opportunity in Paris. The prospects prove, though, little brighter. The men she meets tend to be predatory or seriously neurotic; she finds her own sex resorting to any demeaning means finding a livelihood. In the end she flees back to the old uncomfortable certainties of the provinces.

Nathalie Baye smiles an awful lot, but cannot intimate the depths that Isabelle Huppert gave to Goretta's *The Lace Maker*, so that the whole thing seems finally rather insubstantial.

The shocky horror shows linger still, with their families formulae, much slaughter of teenagers, heavy breathing, irregular footsteps in the night, and cut-up corpses dropping out all over the place. There is frankly not much to choose between them. Tom de Simone's *Hell Night* sticks close to the formula with college kids picked off, Little Indian (a black) by something nasty in an old dark house. *Deadly Blessing*, directed by Wes Craven, flashes a lot of red herrings out of the conflict between an occultist backwoods religious sect and newcomers with tractors, every mod con and Jesabel lingerie to torment the flesh of the God-fearing.

David Robinson

Opera

Too many questions remain

Zaide

Old Vic

Mozart's *Zaide* constantly fascinates operatic folk: it consists of 15 musical numbers, but no linking spoken dialogue (being a German *Singspiel* it would not have sung recitatives). The plot is evidently along the lines of Mozart's subsequent *Entführung aus dem Serail*, with a Turkish pasha, a favourite of female slave and her West European sweetheart.

There is also Allazim, a renegade Christian, who does not figure in *Entführung*. Indeed, from the clues of the musical numbers it seems that the outcome of *Zaide* will differ distinctly from what we know in English as *The Seraglio*. The extant music, abandoned long before the finale, is too beautiful to ignore. Adam Pollock, the scenic designer who runs the Musica nel Chiostro company, which gives operas in Tuscany with British forces, took the problem to the writer Italo Calvino in Rome.

The task evidently attracted Calvino, not as a straightforward practical job, viz. work out a text to motivate each musical number, draw the characters roundly, in dialogue that explains who they are, and invent a dénouement. It appealed to him as an intellectual exercise in literary choice.

Calvino left the singing characters as in Mozart, singing the original German words but not actually speaking dialogue. That is done for them by a narrator, presumably Calvino thinking aloud, in this production replaced by Marins Goring who speaks William Weaver's English translation of Calvino's text — and who makes a star turn of the part.

For a while, motivation is easy, though Calvino postulates several alternatives for the action leading to Allazim's escape with the two lovers. Is he in love with Zaide, and why does he protect and accompany them, given that he is the Vizier and confidante of the Pasha?

Allazim remains a mysterious participant in the drama, which may be why William Mackie made so little of a not unsatisfactory part. Towards the end of the second half, the possible solutions proliferate, some of them manifestly unacceptable (Goring visualizes the author's doubts



Musical chance: Deborah Rees, Adrian Thompson

delightfully, toying with the situation in a vein of gentle self-mockery), none of them a true solution.

Calvino's musings have threatened to drift away into poetic nothingness, and that is how his version ends: he refuses to decide on a conclusion, and Goring is left seated on a balcony above the singers, dreamily ruminating about jewels and odalisques, and the dramatic personae of an opera that never was.

To duck the issue seems to me an act of intellectual dishonesty, or at least a cheat, and thoroughly disappointing — not least because he refuses to consider the title of one such *Singspiel* that Allazim is father to Zaide.

We may assume that Goring is her brother, though that makes a good case for her accepting the Pasha's courtship. Her brother could be the Pasha, a

possibility worth the narrator's investigation, if he were not lost in his poetic doodling.

At least we get to see and hear Mozart's music for the piece, affectionately conducted by Jane Glover, starkly enacted because the drama remains in cold storage, and tolerably well sung by Deborah Rees (over-parted in the heroine's two big arias), Adrian Thompson and Neil Jenkins, two forthright coming tenors, the former sadly unheroic in appearance, and Robert Dean, not busy enough of voice for Goring's one aria, though vividly interpreted.

Graham Vick stages Calvino and Mozart without stage trappings. The set is the Old Vic's sad sale of wardrobe, reasonable for an exercise in theatrical tactics. It is not the justification of *Zaide* that I hoped to experience.

William Mann

Theatre

Walking a nervous tightrope

Murder in Mind

Strand

'As I last quit this building 10 years ago to write off a show which has been running ever since, I would be glad to look with a kinder eye on the entertainment which has slid into the space vacated by *No Sex Please We're British* (Terence Feely's thriller I have to give this up as a vain hope).

The evening opens ominously with the return of a wide-eyed, febrile Nyree Dawn Porter to a multi-doored hall, panelled in a homicidal baronial style, to pour out her day's disasters in a phone conversation which we are conveniently allowed to hear too. Her flame has just gone down in flames. On comes Roy Dotrice claiming to be her husband, only to be met with a torrent of terrified denials in which she thoughtfully includes more information for our benefit. The house has 40 acres of parkland, for instance; she is in the art-marketing business which she shares with her husband, sister, and cousin, none of whom, she quavers, bears any resemblance to her sinister, now making themselves at home with her decanters and combination locks.

They are after the loot, they say, taking away her telephone, locking her in the bathroom, and then reluctantly releasing her for a police examination when they can barely make themselves heard above her hammering from up above. They sail through the Sergeant's identification tests, down to the last strawberry mark, and then resume the attack when they have closed the door on the intruder.

Why did she have two tickets to America? What is the new combination number? Where is George? Pause, while they collect their shotguns to scour the 40 acres for George. However, George Davies is back in a flash, reminding her of how her cousin Peter used to torture her as a child and resuming the game with a bottle of nitric acid (a prop which blossomed into one of the evening's favourite running gags).

Another panic phone call brings her doctor to the rescue — a paternally unflappable Basil Hoskins who appears to be the brains of the operation, and quickly trains her into a family reunion; though even he is briefly thrown off his stride when George's body falls out of a cupboard.

Things are going a bit wrong, as one of the gang remarks. Nobody could deny that. You expect Byzantine complications in this kind of show, but Mr Feely's trick of

presenting a group of people who may or may not be what they seem has given Anthony Sharp's company a hopeless task. They have no characters to play; all they can do is walk a nervous tightrope between villainous masquerade and family feeling. As a result, the only watchable performance comes from Philip Lowrie, who has the advantage of playing a real policeman.

Irving Wardle

Chee-Chee

King's Head

Situation comedies were around before television packaged them in half-hour sequences. While working his way to a calculated disruption of the theatrical experience in *Six Characters in Search of an Author*, Luigi Pirandello was not above turning his short stories into short plays, as if anticipating TV.

Perhaps he anticipates a bit more than that with hints of the anti-illusionist games of his later plays, but what he disrupts in *Chee-Chee* is love's illusion, displaying the reality of the confidence trickster who manages to make money and love out of his practised use of personal charm and private debts.

Ned Chaillet

Aldeburgh branches out

The Aldeburgh Festival is to be expanded to include ballet and drama as well as concerts and opera as part of an attempt to bring it new life and increased interest. In addition jazz and folk music will play an important part in the activities at the Snape Maltings. The aim is "to ensure that the Maltings becomes one of the most exciting and special centres for the performing arts in the country" said Lord Inverforth, chairman of the Aldeburgh Festival-Snape Maltings Foundation, yesterday.

The appointment was announced of three new associate directors to swell the number to eight, led by Sir Peter Peters, Theatre at Murray Perahic, John Shirley-Quirk and Simon Rattle.

The foundation at present has a deficit of £120,000, but Lord Inverforth is optimistic about its financial survival as

well its artistic success. The Foundation is expected soon to announce a "windfall" which will cover its immediate financial difficulties.

The spring programme will include visits by the Adolf Friedrichs Bachkor from Sweden, the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, the Midnite Follies Jazz Orchestra, the Orchestra of St John's, Smith Square, and Northern Ballet Theatre. An unusual departure for the Maltings, in April, will be the only concert outside London of the folk-singer and songwriter Carole King.

The Aldeburgh Festival will run from June 11 to 27 and will include a new production by Kent Opera of Britten's arrangement of *The Beggar's Opera* as well as first visits to Snape by the Royal Shakespeare Company — performing anthologies — Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

Concert

The voice of magic

BBCSO/Gielen

Festival Hall/Radio 3

I imagine the Festival Hall was so empty on Wednesday simply because most people realize that Schoenberg's *Erwartung* is an opera and felt that any concert performance would of necessity misrepresent it. They could not have been more wrong. *Erwartung* staged is one thing, but *Erwartung* out of the theatre becomes entirely an opera of the mind, and for reasons that this performance made quite clear.

To begin with, it had the great benefit of Phyllis Bryn-Julson as the unnamed solo character of what Schoenberg called his "monodrama". Miss Bryn-Julson has the exceedingly rare gift of making angular, atonal melody sound like song and not some sort of agonised raving, and here she was consistently marvellous. Everything was beautifully sung, without lapses into fake expressionist speech-song; everything was clear and audible without any screaming exaggeration of the fact that some fairly extreme emotions are being expressed. The music was simply allowed to do its work.

And I intend no dismissal of Miss Bryn-Julson's magnificent performance in suggesting that its main point was to direct attention to the orchestra. At the first critical juncture of the work, when the first of the four sections is about to end, the woman announces that she will sing, but this is not autology; we hear her song in a high violin solo, a touching moment enhanced here by Rodney Friend, and we are alerted to the fact that the real drama is going on in the orchestra.

For although, like Wagner and Strauss, Schoenberg made his most violently exposed operatic character a woman, establishing a distance that kept art from merging with life and perhaps driving him mad, the great freedom of his atonal style allowed his orchestra to become something much more than the accompaniment it still is for Kundry and Salome. It has its own life as a fantastic succession of melodies, chords and repeating patterns, all of which Michael Gielen brought to tumble out of the BBC Symphony Orchestra in exquisite, delicate, vivid array, proving at last that *Erwartung* is not about a woman deranged but rather about imagining her, remorselessly.

Paul Griffiths

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David Watt

Roy Jenkins: the ayes have it

For the first year of their existence, the Social Democrats have done pretty well with their policy-making leadership. An effective composite picture can be made out of Mr Jenkins' weight and experience, Dr Owen's drive and energy, Mr Rodgers' solid political judgement, and Mrs Williams' extraordinary public appeal.

Admittedly we have occasionally caught glimpses of a rather less glamorous beastly possessor of Mr Jenkins' fastidiousness, Dr Owen's bad temper, Mr Rodgers' lack of charisma, and Mrs Williams' indecision. ("Has it occurred to you," said Shaw to Mrs Patrick Campbell, "that our offspring might have my looks and your brains?") Nevertheless, the success of the quadrumvirate has been quite sufficient to prompt the obvious question: why change a winning formula? Why must Dr Owen start stirring things up with tiresome "challenges" and the like? Why start a leadership contest now, and indeed why start one at all?

The answer to the "why now?" part is easy enough. Time is getting on. The constitutional convention of the SDP takes place in two weeks' time and will debate a clause which provides for a leadership election in the early autumn by an electoral college consisting of MPs. It may well be decided to provide that in the first leadership elections the electoral college should consist of the entire membership of the party, but there is no suggestion that the quadrumvirate should be retained.

Another factor is the practical need for a final arbiter with authority to settle disputes, treat with other parties, and provide definitive answers to the media in the crucial eighteen months' run-up to the next election. Surprisingly few wires get crossed (at any

rate in public), considering the complexity of the new operations where the party is involved — policy-making, negotiating with the Liberals, building the party machine, and keeping the party's parliamentary end up. But the point is now being reached where none of these different activities can any longer be detached from the others. A view has to be taken for better or worse on the whole stance and direction of the party, and until it has a leader such a view is hard to crystallize.

This last point is also the key to the question "Why have a contest at all?" The fact is that each of the four gangsters represents not only different temperaments but also different aspirations and ways of looking at the future of the party. It is not always easy to separate these strands, but it is important to realize that calculations of personal advantage are only half the story. The half is that four very able and civilized politicians, having risked a great deal together and having already achieved an astonishing amount, are genuinely enjoying something new and significant in each other's company. But an examination of the scene as it appears from their very individual viewpoints may cast some light on the argument.

● **Mr Jenkins.** One of his supporters described him the other day as "an old man in a hurry". The first part of the description is perhaps unkind for a very well preserved 61-year-old, but the "hurry" part is certainly right. Unlike the others, he must regard the next election as his last serious chance of becoming Prime Minister and must therefore hope for more than a mere "hung" Parliament in which the Alliance holds the balance of power and forces through proportional representation ready for 1989 or whenever. The big push has got to



Roy Jenkins: he can handle the Gang

come now. It follows that the Alliance is far more important to him than the SDP as such, and now that Mr Steel has said he will serve under him, the Liberal connection is more valuable than the balance of potentially winnable seats between the two parties. Provided, of course, that the SDP catches a respectable minimum sufficient to block a Steel government. Mr Jenkins' disapproval of Mr Rodgers' entirely reasonable warning shot across Liberal bows at Christmas is highly significant.

● **Dr Owen.** He is often accused of ruthless ambition, and no doubt he has a fair share of it. But his main objection to Mr Jenkins is that he (Jenkins) does not see the SDP as a party that is primarily a radical alternative to the Labour Party and is prepared both by temperament and self-interest to allow it to become a predominantly middle-class alternative to the Tories. Dr Owen is often a bit vague about what exactly he means by "radical" and what causes Mr Jenkins ought to espouse in order to get his seal of approval.

On trade union reform, for instance, which ought to be a litmus test and on which they are supposed to be at odds, the two men are, so far as I can see, in

agreement on a cautious line which will distinguish them from the Government. Nor is it at all clear that Dr Owen's (as opposed to Mr Enoch Powell's) "radicalism" is what working-class voters want anyway. Nevertheless, on an emotional level, Dr Owen is right. Mr Jenkins, whatever he may have been in the past, is not very radical today, except in the sense that he would like to change the constitution. He is an old-fashioned Liberal-minded centrist, and his image, like Campbell Bannerman's, is of a man who still represents

"The accursed power that stands on privilege And goes with women and champagne and bridge."

This combination may not necessarily turn off the voters of Warrington and Hillhead, but it may not necessarily solve the country's problems and bind up its wounds either.

● **Mrs Williams.** She seems, as so often, to be in two minds. In some moods she recognizes that Mr Jenkins is the only possible leader of the Alliance and therefore of the party. In others she listens to the voice of Dr Owen and her socialist conscience (she is probably the only genuine socialist remaining among the four), which admonishes her to shake her head over Mr Jenkins. Her own star naturally also tempts her to run. Neither she nor Dr Owen consider the leadership of the party outside Parliament as much more than a device to console the loser, but she would probably take it all the same if she stands and then loses.

● **Mr Rodgers.** He is a Jenkins man, and though he has a genuine enthusiasm for the SDP and is far wiser of the Liberals than Mr Jenkins, he will not wish to have another punch-up with them before Mr Jenkins is safely elected at Hillhead. He has had a love/hate relationship with Mrs Williams ever since

they were at Oxford together more than 30 years ago, and at a basic level he probably does not take her very seriously. He is irritated by Dr Owen's tactlessness and pretensions, and is probably human enough to be jealous of his popular impact. He is therefore in favour of the idea that Jenkins should be leader in Parliament — and future Prime Minister — and Mrs Williams leader in the country. If Mr Jenkins were to fail at Hillhead he would presumably run himself and would probably win if the choice lay with MPs.

The conclusions of all this are not very hard to make out. First of all, it is perfectly obvious that Mr Jenkins has got to be leader of the party. He is the only one under whom Mr Steel could serve, but he is also the only one who could handle all the other three of the Gang from the position of leader. The notion that he could somehow lead the Alliance but not the SDP is hopelessly artificial. On the other hand, it is equally obvious that Dr Owen is right to resist a walk-over. There ought to be a contest, otherwise the suppressed strains and resentments among the four will actually grow. A leadership fight will clear the air, legitimize the winner, and validate whichever policies he or she represents. Moreover it will do no harm at all if Mr Jenkins is given a run for his money and is obliged to prove to the members of the party his specifically SDP (as opposed to his Alliance) credentials.

All new parties come to this kind of parting of the ways, after an early period of flux (I would recommend a reading of the Acts of the Apostles to anyone who doubts it). The sooner a democratic decision is taken, the better.

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How Mubarak sets the new Cairo style

by Christopher Walker



THE TIMES LONDON

Cairo When President Mohammed Hosni Mubarak arrives in London tomorrow, he will be leaving behind an Egypt whose internal mood, style of government and approach to foreign relations has altered significantly since the assassination of President Sadat less than four months ago.

While an increasingly anxious Israeli Cabinet has been quick to coin the phrase "de-Sadatization" to describe what it fears might be a gradual end to the spirit which led to the 1979 peace treaty, Egyptians from every walk of life are fusing in their sense of the approach being adopted by their workmanlike new leader. Even naturally cautious diplomats have been impressed by the performance of a man many considered incapable of moving so adroitly into the job.

Although large, idealized portraits of the former president still adorn many public places in Cairo (possibly as a deliberate reminder of the cult of personality which he is now blamed for encouraging), little respect is being shown for his memory. At the last count, one academic researcher had already noted 216 new anti-Sadat jokes which have been circulating since his death.

In stark contrast, the 53-year-old President Mubarak — once the butt of local jokes aimed at his alleged lack of intelligence — has so far escaped the type of cruel, personalized humour which in the past has so often served as a form of political safety valve for ordinary Egyptians.

Particularly appreciated has been his strict order that members of his family are not to benefit from the presidency and instructions that all pictures of his attractive, half-Welsh wife Susan are to be kept out of the newspapers. This early move accurately pinpointed being adopted to the opposition. "We now have personal access to the President on all important matters, and I know that I can call him any time on the phone."

President Mubarak has also decreed that there should be no more fawning public advertisements singing his praises, and has swiftly banned the popular string of rest houses popular with the Sadat entourage back to the nation. One of the luxury residences near the Pyramids was even publicly bulldozed as part of a clearance scheme, a canny symbolic move in a country where the average annual income is still less than £200 a year.

Perhaps the most graphic example of the change in style will come on April 26, the day that Israel is scheduled to hand back the remaining one-third of the occupied Sinai. Instead of the grandiose and somewhat vulgar celebrations which marked earlier handovers of land lost in 1967, Mr Mubarak has banned all pomp and circumstance in favour of a low-key ceremony.

Quick to identify the shaky condition of Egypt's economy as the main problem to be dealt with (and the main threat to the future stability of the government), President Mubarak has quickly inaugurated schemes to cut wasteful spending.

Among Egypt's parliamentary and extra-parliamentary opposition, Mr Mubarak has succeeded more effectively than most observers expected in defusing the dangerous tensions which had built up during the final days of President Sadat. His main tactic has been to begin a process of regular consultation while trying to isolate the most extreme Muslim fundamentalists by releasing some detainees like the blind

Shaikh Kishk, not considered an immediate threat.

Ibrahim Shukri, leader of the opposition Socialist Labour Party (which has 12 seats in the 390-seat Parliament), now writes a weekly column in one of Cairo's main newspapers. His party is negotiating with the government about being allowed air time on television and his banned newspaper, Al-Shaab, will reappear with presidential blessing on May 1.

Sitting in his offices under a fading portrait of President Sadat, which the Parliament officials have not yet replaced, Mr Shukri spoke warmly of the new approach being adopted to the opposition. "We now have personal access to the President on all important matters, and I know that I can call him any time on the phone."

Further evidence of the new liberalization will come later this month when Dr Hilmi Mourad, the party's deputy leader takes his place at the three-day economic conference being organized by the government in an effort to hammer out Egypt's five-year plan. Only a few months ago, Dr Mourad was languishing in a 10-man cell, branded as a threat to national security.

As yet, the majority of changes have been ones of approach rather than policy. But their importance comes from the way in which they have identified the main frustrations felt by the 42 million Egyptians. A widely predicted target of the Cairo economic conference will be the excesses in luxury consumption caused by the 1974 open door economic policy, although in general the policy will remain in force.

Perhaps realizing that moves will one day have to be made to unscramble a subsidy system which costs the exchequer \$5,000m a year, the President has insisted that formulation of economic reforms takes the form of a national dialogue, of which the conference will be the focal point. Commenting on its prospects, one diplomat said: "Unfortunately, the problems and the remedies are already known. It is just that most are too unpalatable."

Because of the recent slump in the tourist trade, a slowing down in the growth of oil revenues and other factors, Egypt has seen its \$1,500m balance of payments surplus in 1980 transformed

into a deficit which is expected to reach \$500m by the end of the fiscal year in June.

In foreign relations, the widely-predicted move back towards closer ties with the Arab world has begun, with emphasis on semi-private contacts with such potential friends as Saudi Arabia rather than any dramatic gestures. Much energy has been expended on emphasizing Egypt's non-aligned status while Arab governments have been told firmly that Egypt has no intention of scrapping the peace with Israel.

The gradual rapprochement with the Soviet Union, although watched with intense suspicion from America's Cairo Embassy (the third largest in the world) is seen with more equanimity by west European governments, who seem convinced that an exchange of ambassadors is inevitable in the post-Sadat era. All signs point to a levelling out of the extremes of President Sadat's later-day policies, rather than any imminent 180° turn from Egypt's pro-Western position.

Inevitably, economic ministers were at the heart of President Mubarak's first Cabinet reshuffle. Last month, the one aspect of his new government which has failed to win much approval from diplomats based in Cairo, anxiously monitoring prospects for the future, there is a strong feeling that it was only temporary in nature and will require a follow-up.

Altogether 12 new ministers were brought in and the main economic post went to Abdel-Fattah Ibrahim, a former governor of the Central Bank who is handicapped by continuing ill health. Uncertainty and lingering doubts prevail among western governments about why Mr Mubarak failed to pick a more impressive team.

As with Mr Mubarak's other policies, the emphasis is on caution, a determined avoidance of the flamboyance and unpredictability associated with Anwar Sadat, and a conscious effort to run a government more responsive to the wishes of the masses.

From a western point of view, doubts about the post-Sadat era are likely to disappear if the new President catches his early promise. But given Egypt's horrendous social and economic problems, it still remains a big if.

From Kanpur, Richard Streeton sums up England's cricket tour of India

The glorious certainty of statistics

Kanpur Was the Test match series which ended here yesterday between India and England the dullest of all time? Probably not, has to be the answer, though it came fairly close to it.

India won the first match in four days, and the next five all petered out tamely in draws, meaning that 25 days' play had been completely pointless in terms of results.

Most cricket enthusiasts, though, would not summarise what has taken place in recent weeks in those sort of terms. Unlike the United States, for instance, where there is no provision in baseball for a drawn match, a clearcut result has never been considered essential in cricket. In fact many cricket lovers would cite famous instances where a side has managed to stave off defeat and draw among their most vivid memories.

There has, in fact, been a great deal of stimulating cricket played in the Test matches just finished, with some fine batting to enjoy. Everyone will have their own examples of cricket's duller series but those between India and Pakistan — in Pakistan, 1954-55, and in India, 1960-61 — would appear in most lists. Ten successive Tests were drawn with not a gesture or any attempt made by either side

The Indian tour: England's performance									
Test Matches: Played 6, Won 0, Lost 1, Drawn 5									
All First-Class Matches: Played 13, Won 2, Lost 1, Drawn 10									
Batting	Matches	Inns.	Not Out	Runs	Score	Bowling	Over	Maidens	Runs
G Boycott	8	14	5	701	105.77.88	D L Underwood	304.1	120	544
A Gooch	11	18	3	869	127.57.83	J E Embury	307.1	79	546
I Tatham	10	14	1	747	142.57.48	R G Willis	214.1	52	817
K W R Fletcher	11	15	5	524	108.55.40	J K Lever	189	38	903
C J Richards	5	5	4	51	18.51.00	P J Allott	144.4	32	463
D I Gower	11	15	2	406	94.45.61	I Tatham	292.3	83	983
C Cook	5	7	2	257	104.42.83	R G Willis	166.2	25	723
C J Tate	12	17	0	575	149.39.78	Also Bowled: G Cook 8.5-1-21-2, K W R Fletcher 22-2, I Tatham 11-1-40-1, C J Richards 2-1-5-0, C J			
M W Gatling	11	13	1	455	127.37.91	121-2, M W Gatling 11-1-40-1, C J Richards 2-1-5-0, C J			
G R Diley	9	10	2	189	52.23.62	150-2, D I Gower 5-2-1-1, C J Richards 2-1-5-0, C J			
D L Underwood	9	8	5	60	22.20.00	Tavare 4-0-16-0, R W Taylor 2-0-6-0.			
R G Willis	9	5	3	26	13.13.00				
R W Taylor	10	9	1	101	33.9.50				
J E Embury	10	10	2	76	33.9.50				
J K Lever	7	4	0	34	16.5.00				
P J W Allott	5	3	0	10	3.33				
Not Out									

to reach a definite result. There were political and national undertones to these games, of course, but India and England also drew all five Tests in 1963-64 when, as in recent weeks, the pitches were just too perfect.

Cricket's appeal for its devotees has seldom lain solely in the bare result. It might be an overstatement to say that they do not mind about the outcome of a game but it is a definite fact that the poorest attendances in the County Championship come on the third day when the captains usually try to contrive a clearcut result.

The 1981-82 Tests have been unusual in that in four games the first innings were not completed until the fifth day (in other words, the halfway stage was barely reached) and also for the fact that the number of balls bowled sank to a record average low of around 78 an hour. This is a deliberate modern tactical ploy by the captains to slow down the tempo, and later this year the legislators are expected to lay down a mandatory number of overs that must be reached in a day; but for the million spectators who watched India and England, the over-

riding consideration was that India should retain their 1-0 lead in the series. A test match nowadays is no longer an entity in itself but is merely a part of a series, with national prestige at stake and settled by the overall outcome. There are already signs in Australia that five-day tests have lost their appeal compared with one-day games and something similar could follow in India the years ahead but this is a spectator reaction. In India, where time means so little, that is some way off.

All this series has produced batting records; no game excels cricket for its capacity to yield records and the following reveal in the statistical aspect of the game more than the Indians. There was hardly a day in the series when there was not something statistical to enjoy. In the second Test at Bangalore, it was Gavaskar, the King Emperor of Indian cricket, who batted 708 minutes, longer than any other Indian before him, with the crowd loving every moment of the English frustration. In Delhi over Christmas it was Geoffrey Boycott passing Gary Sobers's world record Test career aggregate that claimed the limelight.

Then came Madras, with Viswanath's 222 failing by nine runs to become India's biggest ever Test score. Here Kanpur there was always the comforting knowledge, in a match that lost ten hours to the weather, that India were about to clinch the series. For Kapil Dev yesterday to make one of Test cricket's quickest centuries was merely a bonus for a full house.

These examples are only a few of the reasons why for the enthusiasts present the 1981-82 series was far from dull. Obviously, it was cricket at its best, but then so much present day Test cricket does not show the game in its best light.

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Revealed at last! the . . . word to upset MPs

Reg Race's f . . . in the House of Commons was in perfect order. The Labour MP for Wood Green, a not excessively boorish Bennite, uttered the four-letter word which is forbidden, in PHS at least, on Wednesday night during the debate on sex shops. The event, if that is what it was, passed without a murmur in the thinly attended House. The couple of dozen MPs present took Race's statement that a sex shop in Lewisham advertised a contacts directory with the slogan "phone them and f . . . them" as grim but unexciting news.

Still, it gave *The Daily Telegraph* parliamentary scribe a chance to grab prominence on the front page, and to treat the readers to a display of asterisks the like of which has seldom been seen outside the pages of *Marvel Comics*.

Race was quoting from a document, albeit an improbable one, and could, before the Speaker's ruling yesterday, say what he liked. It followed that there were no points of order, no shock and no reaction for much more polite words which they use about each other. Then words that would not flutter an eyebrow after dinner can be considered totally impermissible. Among them are "blether", "cad", "cheeky young pup" and "not consonant with personal honour". The ultimate four-letter word in the House of Commons is not f . . . but "flar".

THE TIMES DIARY



Congratulations to Peter Tory, my opposite number on the Daily Mirror. He is either a master of disguise who owns his own clip-on moustache, which can be useful in

our profession, or he has the most vigorous growth of hair on any upper lip in Britain. On Tuesday his column was headed with smiling, clean-shaven face. On Wednesday he had sprouted a fine moustache. Yesterday it was gone again. The truth may be that Tory has grown a moustache, but was terrified by what he saw when he looked in the Mirror on Wednesday morning. But I shall be keen to see this morning whether he now sports a floppy hat, dark glasses and a

Literary labours

PHS regards journalism, if not as an idle occupation, at least as a rather luxurious one. How then does beleaguered Michael Foot find time to write wistful letters to *The Times* like the one published yesterday or embattled Sir Peter Parker to write erudite appreciations of William Blake, this week's *New Statesman*? Should PHS try running the Labour Party British Rail?

Bush House for sale

The Post Office Staff Superannuation Fund is selling Bush House, valued at more than £30m, over the heads of its tenants, including the BBC external services.

The fund's chief executive, Ralph Quartano, the man who blocked Lord Grade's platinum handshake to Jack Gill, said yesterday: "It is correct that we

are selling Bush House." But he would give no hint of the purchaser or price.

Doe-it-yourself

Paul Clifford of Wrexham is turning a fast buck, touring the town by van selling rabbit and chips. After a week, customer reaction has been sufficiently favourable to double his fleet and soon he hopes to cover Clwyd, expanding his range of convenience foods to rabbitburgers and rabbit pies.

Clifford and his wife, Jo, found it impossible to make a decent living from their 100-doe rabbit farm. They mortgaged their all and, with the help of a grant from the Welsh Development Agency, set up a rabbit-processing factory able to handle 40,000 animals a week. Rabbit is readily available on most supermarket shelves, most of it imported from China, but Clifford claims that his rabbits, all

home-reared, are superior, "not just something you put in a stew". The meat, long tainted by its association with myxomatosis and wartime substitution for chicken, may be recovering popularity. Last week Simpson's in the Strand restored it to the menu for the first time in 30 years. Theirs is cooked in cream and mushroom sauce and costs £4.50 a portion. For the moment, Clifford, selling breadcrumbed joints with chips at 70p, is still avoiding Bugs Bunny versus Captain Birds Eye hostilities by keeping his vans to the byways of Wrexham industrial and housing estates where fish fryers do not venture.

Wait for it

Gustave Ledun, director of the armagnac brandy producers' association, was lurching at that most English of establishments, the RAC Club, and though the menu is in French, he seized directly upon ported shrimps and grilled Dover sole.

The only fish available in his region of Gascony, he says, are tench, and the trick of cooking them is to steep them alive first in milk and then in armagnac. This sounds too cruel for English taste, though not much crueler than the RAC's sommelier. When asked for armagnac, he said: "That's the drink they make from cognac, isn't it?"

A certain disability

The Royal Institute of British Architects wish to improve access for the disabled to their Grade II listed headquarters in Portland Place. At present there is a metal ramp, which they want to replace



He has real prospects, Daddy: he's Index linked . . .

with a permanent stone ramp to give access to wheelchairs. They applied for planning permission from Westminster council on October 14. It was the third week in January before statutory notices about the change appeared on lamp-posts outside the building. The matter has yet to go to a committee for consideration.

While it is plainly right that architects could not be trusted to design anything so simple as a wheelchair ramp for their own building, it does seem that Michael Heseltine's attempts to cut down on planning delays face another setback.

PHS

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OPTING OUT OF THE NHS

Private medicine has been one of Britain's few boom sectors during the recession. The number of subscribers to private insurance schemes rose by more than 14 per cent last year, and the building of small private hospitals has gone forward at a brisk pace. One person in every 14 is now covered: but by the same token, 13 in every 14 are not. The continuing financial problems of the National Health Service contrast sharply with the flourishing condition of the private sector. Many who never shared the wholesale left-wing hostility towards private medicine are beginning to wonder whether such a rapid growth may not after all be a threat. This week the Royal College of Nursing, which said in 1975 that the private sector should be allowed to develop outside the NHS in response to market forces, called for new controls to ensure that the development does not undermine the NHS.

In the short term, it is feared that the growing number of private hospitals will poach expensively trained manpower from the NHS by offering higher wages. But private care will bring up without anybody actually intending it, a state affairs which the great majority would deplore — a vicious circle where private medicine became the usual option for a substantial proportion of citizens, with the NHS becoming increasingly neglected and impoverished because of a diversion of public pressure to maintain standards. In general terms this prospect is still remote. In any case patients with private cover are likely to look to the NHS for some of their medical needs, such as long-drawn-out nursing care. But there are signs of a vicious circle in some sectors

where waiting-lists for painful but non-acute conditions may be years long. Allegedly, private treatment buys comfort and convenience rather than better medical care, but already today the distinction is an academic one in too many cases.

The NHS deserves protection: As a comprehensive system without frills but strong in essentials, it is popular because it is fair. No other country manages to provide equally good care as economically. But as taxpayers we have not been prepared to fund it to a level where it could provide a service as good as private medicine can in the areas where the latter excels. As buyers of insurance, many are ready to pay much more in addition to their taxes. Indirectly these extra funds (more than £160m last year) relieve pressure on the state service, if the threats of poaching of staff and a widening disparity of standards can be averted.

There are many ways in which it is possible for the two sectors to reinforce each other, and there would be many more were it not for the sense of division left over from the pay-beds controversy of the mid 1970s. It was that controversy which launched private medicine in a direction that made it increasingly difficult for it to supplement rather than threaten. The attitudes which brought the 1974 conflict to a head are still very much alive. Last year's Labour Party conference voted to abolish private practice inside the NHS and outside it. Whatever the Labour Party's chances of giving such intentions legislative form, several trade unions with many members in the NHS are hostile to private practice. But except for an illiberal minority able to

envisage the expropriation of hospital trusts (to acquire beds that the NHS does not need) or the outlawing of private medical care, the future must be seen to be one of coexistence between the two sectors. If two sectors are to exist, there is an overwhelming economic, medical and social case for bringing them into as close a partnership as possible.

The Royal College of Nursing tentatively proposes that future private development should be located in or near NHS hospitals, though in separate buildings. The private sector is understandably wary of giving hostages to fortune in this way, but in principle the proposal is sensible. The physical separation between private and NHS hospitals wastes many hours of doctors' time, necessitates duplication of beds and equipment and sharpens feelings of resentment and prejudice.

It is essential that the private sector pay its full share of all NHS facilities it uses: the benefits of the private contribution would be more visible if a share of it went not to swell national funds but to the local hospital itself and to staff involved in providing the service. A private contribution to training costs might also help to restore goodwill, though it is no more logically necessary than a special levy on industry to support education: taxation is designed to take care of that already. The state system, in turn, should publicize and develop amenities and other devices that bring it close to what the private system can offer. Both sides should be ready to move towards a mutually beneficial partnership. Political hostility to that process would only hasten the growth of the very polarization it seeks to prevent.

HERR SCHMIDT'S POLITICAL REFLECTION

Chancellor Helmut Schmidt is playing for high stakes in making his job-creation package the subject of a vote of confidence in the Bundestag today. Yet the measures he has introduced are cautious in the extreme. Although they provide some response to the demand from German unions that something must be done about unemployment, they will have only a small effect. They are a way of heading off more drastic action rather than a solution to Germany's unemployment problem, which with 1,900,000 out of work is getting more and more serious.

The new measures are expected to cost the German government about £3,000m spread over three years. At £1,000m a year that is a much smaller dose of reflation than the CBI and Cabinet wets here would like. It is far less than the job creation programme brought in by the Mitterrand government in France.

The net effect of the German action will be even less because Value Added Tax is being increased from the middle of next year to pay for the programme. The result will be to increase public spending and increase taxes; hardly Keynesian reflation, more a case of supply side economics in reverse.

The government's aim is two fold. It wants to encourage investment with public money in the private sector to increase the economy's long-term ability to grow. And it wants to do something special at the same time to create jobs, especially for the young, unskilled who have been hit by the decline of the construction industry. The investment part of the package is the more important. The government hopes that its assistance will encourage the private sector to put up its own money, so that the total amount of investment will be ten times as large as the government contribution.

Past experience suggests that things will not be as simple as that. The effects of a similar programme in the mid-seventies were disappointing. They showed that the private sector is less impressed by government packages of this kind than it is by prospects for the economy as a whole. These cannot be greatly influenced by small changes of this kind in the level of government activity. Herr Schmidt shows no sign of being interested in really large reflation as a way out of Germany's economic problems. The difficulties which have faced Mitterrand in

France will have confirmed him in this view.

Much more important to the German economy than the government measures will be what happens to interest rates. In Germany it is generally reckoned that a one percentage point drop in interest rates has the same effect as £2,000m of extra spending or tax cuts. And although job measures for the young can give short-term help, there is no basis on which Germany can hope to bring its unemployment down without a general world recovery.

The economic measures being adopted by the Chancellor are not really economic at all. They are an attempt to force his own party to back him in a confidence vote. Their very insignificance is part of their attraction. By showing that he can call and have a vote of confidence he hopes to end the constant bickering which has become such a feature of the coalition in recent months. Whether that vote alone will be enough to restore the coherence of the coalition in the months ahead is a question of direct concern to the rest of Europe and indeed to the rest of the world.

Right objectives

From Mr Ronald Spark
Sir, I was appalled by the sanctimonious letter (February 3) in which Mr Alexander Chancellor, Editor of the Spectator, revealed that he had rejected an advertisement from Mr David Irving because of its "extremist" nature. I know little or nothing of Mr Irving. It is a matter for personal judgment whether his views are extremist. But, provided he remains within the bounds of the law, he is entitled to express his opinions. He is entitled to seek to reach like-minded individuals without the stamp of Mr Chancellor's approval. The Spectator's freedom of information Mr Chancellor has lately begun to contribute a column to a daily newspaper. It will become him to play the censor and deny to others the democratic rights he himself enjoys. Yours truly, RONALD SPARK, 19 The Rotings, Rottingdean.

The wage-inflation bind

From Professor Geoffrey W. Maynard
Sir, On the face of it, Professor Meade's proposals (Business feature, January 20) for the conduct of macro-economic policy represents a significant change from the past, at any rate of fiscal and monetary policy being used to manage the level of real demand in the economy whilst the control of inflation is left to incomes

policy. Professor Meade now proposes that fiscal and monetary policy should control nominal demand whilst intervention in the labour market is aimed at regulating employment. However, whether the new proposals would make much difference in practice depends on how the Government would behave if more rational money wage-fixing arrangements cannot be introduced or, if introduced, break down, so that the country is faced, as so often in the past, with a money wage explosion. On this issue, if his remains within the bounds of the law, he is entitled to express his opinions. He is entitled to seek to reach like-minded individuals without the stamp of Mr Chancellor's approval.

The Spectator's freedom of information Mr Chancellor has lately begun to contribute a column to a daily newspaper. It will become him to play the censor and deny to others the democratic rights he himself enjoys. Yours truly, RONALD SPARK, 19 The Rotings, Rottingdean.

If this were generally understood to be Government policy, then not only would the response undermine the aim of maintaining a stable growth, but it would gravely prejudice the task of enforcing or maintaining the more sensible money wage-fixing arrangements which are at the heart of Professor Meade's proposals. It has surely been the willingness of most governments in postwar Britain to accommodate inflationary money wage and unrealistic real wage demands that has been at the root of Britain's inflationary problem; and, in the end, the accommo-

dation did not prevent the rise in unemployment.

If the policy of our present Government represents a radical break from the past, as I believe in some respects it does, it lies not in its adoption of "monetarism" — a mere glance at monetary statistics should disabuse us from this belief — but rather in its unwillingness to accommodate, and for this it should be applauded.

As the SDP picks and chooses between various aspects of policy pursued by previous Labour and Conservative governments, this particular feature of present policy should certainly not be disregarded.

Yours faithfully, G. MAYNARD, Vice President, The Chase Manhattan Bank, NA, Woolgate House, Coleman Street, EC2.

Proper names

From the Reverend Kenneth Leach
Sir, The late Father Neville, SSF, an Anglican Franciscan who worked in the East End of London, was widely known and much loved by people of many nationalities, including seamen in other countries, many of whom had never seen his name written. Letters addressed to him included Father Nibel, Nibbel, Nobel and Nable, and one was addressed to (Mr) Fadernebble, Cable Street, London. It arrived without any difficulty. Yours sincerely, KEN LEACH, General Synod, Board for Social Responsibility, Church House, Dean's Yard, SW1.

Claims to Alliance leadership

From Lord Tordoff
Sir, Your first leader today on "who is to lead the Alliance" concentrates naturally on who is to lead the SDP, a matter which Liberals should leave well alone. But insofar as it dwells on the subsequent leadership of the Alliance, you have overlooked the position of David Steel as having "many supporters as Alliance leader among the general public". The last poll on this topic (Gallup, December 11, 1981) gave him a huge lead over any of the SDP's leadership, preference echoed even among SDP supporters.

The percentage figures as to "who do you think would be the best leader of the Alliance?" were as follows:

	All	SDP	Liberals
David Steel	39	38	68
Shirley Williams	22	24	14
Roy Jenkins	13	21	6
David Owen	8	7	5
William Rodgers	1	1	0
Don't know	17	9	9

Before you consider who is to lead in government, you have to determine who would best lead the Alliance to victory and into government. For that reason Mr Steel's claim should not be written off so casually. The public recognises him as the consistent advocate of many of the policies now being adopted by the SDP and as perhaps the main architect of the Alliance itself. All that has to be set in the balance against the undoubtedly superior experience of Roy Jenkins. (Although it may be thought that that experience might be best used to the country's advantage at the Treasury.) Meanwhile this factor does not seem to influence voters unduly, since in the same poll Mr Steel was ahead of both Mrs Thatcher and Mr Foot as current favourite Prime Minister.

Yours faithfully, TORDOFF, House of Lords, February 2.

The Tawney tradition

From Professor Antony Frew
Sir, Several correspondents have asked or commented on the right to Tawney's name of a society which is supposed to be social democratic, as opposed to democratic or any other sort of socialist. Certainly there can be no doubt but that R. H. Tawney himself was a Clause IV socialist, but it is not clear that he intended "public ownership of all the means of production, distribution, and exchange".

Thus in his *Equality*, first published in 1931, several times reissued but never either disavowed or even substantially revised, he argued that the majority Labour government must nationalise all of what Lenin in 1923 and Hugh Gaitskill in 1959 called "the commanding heights of the economy" (chapter V). In the following chapter he adds: "If it succeeds in doing that, the moving up of the remainder will follow in good time."

Of course, some of us who greatly admire R. H. Tawney might try to argue that, had he lived longer, practical experience of nationalization in Britain would have led him to change his mind. Certainly too his commitment to democracy always came before his commitment to socialism. In that same chapter VI he continued: "If these laudable improvements leave the British public cold, an enlightened minority has neither the right nor the power to force them down reluctant throats."

Nevertheless it was surely at least imprudent for people who want us to believe that the SDP is not socialist to call their subscription for the Fabian Society the Tawney Society.

Yours faithfully, ANTONY FLEW, University of Reading, Whiteknights, Reading, February 2.

Housing policy

From the Director-General of the National House-Building Council
Sir, Neil McIntosh of Shelter repeats (February 2) the fiction — for that is what it is — that tax concessions to home buyers have discouraged investment in productive industry. The facts are otherwise.

A. J. Taylor has correctly stated that a boom in house production in the 1930s from below 210,000 in 1931 to 365,000 in 1936 helped to lead the nation from the slump. In the post war period, the years of high new house production have been years of relative prosperity. By contrast in the last two years, when house prices were static and housing starts were at exceptionally low levels, industry generally was in recession.

As for the decline in rented housing, the fact is that in an inflationary society, home ownership is the only way to escape with the individual: renting leaves it with landlords, public or private.

It is relevant that £50m spent now on assisting council tenants of below average means to buy on the open market could "at a stroke" empty some council houses for the needy, stimulate new house production, and reduce the numbers on the dole. Moreover, the burden of mortgage payments on the erstwhile tenants would mean that they could not afford to buy imported goods. It is doubtful if there is any other public investment which would produce such a good return. Yours sincerely, A. W. TAIT, 58 Portland Place, W1, February 2.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Submission on Civil Service pay

From Mr Bernard Gottlieb
Sir, Today's first leader (February 3) makes an unprecedented attack on the propriety of senior Treasury civil servants and by implication on the propriety of the Exchequer, or better still Mrs Thatcher as Treasury First Lord, will respond to your challenge quickly.

Senior civil servants have never negotiated with unions about their own salaries.

Whatever the merits of what the Government conceded at the end of last year's strikes or the line of its evidence to the Megaw Committee should one associate Treasury messengers simply because they bring news of Government decisions?

Yours faithfully, BERNARD GOTTLIEB, The Reform Club, Pall Mall, SW1, February 3.

From Mr Peter Hordern, MP for Horsham and Crawley (Conservative)
Sir, If you are right to surmise that the Treasury evidence to the Megaw Committee on Civil Service pay shows that the 4 per cent limit on pay increases does not mean what it says, and that any extra sum negotiated by the Civil Service may come simply from the contingency reserve, then we are in a serious position. Serious because the practice of pay in the Civil Service being established through a sophisticated comparability exercise with the private sector makes it so.

Between 1970 and 1981 wages and salaries per unit of output in manufacturing industry quadrupled. This is a far worse record

than any of our industrial competitors, and has surely led to the very high number of those now out of work. The Clegg awards in public sector pay, and other comparability exercises, however, seem to have taken no account of the dreadful but inevitable consequences of too much pay in our productive industry. They have simply forged ahead regardless.

In 1980-81 Civil Service pay rose by 23.5 per cent to £4,627m. In the NHS pay rose by 31.3 per cent to £5,286m. In 1980-81, having risen by 21.7 per cent the previous year, although these increases probably reflect the extra 67,000 people recruited since June 1979. Public corporations, apart from the railways, have not increased their pay in 1980 by 16.6 per cent to £2,007m, universities by 21.4 per cent in 1979-80, followed, if Sussex University is a guide, by 23 per cent in 1980-81; and technicians by 26.1 per cent in 1980-81.

In engineering, in construction, in production of motor vehicles and steel, our output is significantly less than it was ten years ago. What kind of system can it be that allows pay in the public sector to be compared to the ruinous increases paid in the productive sector, which has put so many out of work in industry, while the numbers are still growing in central government? Surely the only comparability exercise for the Government service that is valid is the comparison with what the country can produce and can afford. And that cannot be more than 4 per cent.

Yours faithfully, PETER HORDERN, House of Commons, February 3.

Arsenii Roginski

From Professor Geoffrey Best and others
Sir, We are very disturbed by reports reaching the West about the recent trial in Leningrad of our professional colleague, the historian Arsenii Roginski.

Roginski was one of the outstanding students of the internationalist and linguist and literary historian, Yuri Lotman. Since his graduation in 1958, he has published a number of distinguished articles on nineteenth and early twentieth century social thought in Russia, some of them in the West.

In June 1981 his reader's ticket to the Leningrad Public Library was revoked on the grounds that he had "used material from the manuscript departments for illegal publication abroad". He was subsequently arrested, and in early December sentenced to four years' imprisonment by the Leningrad City Court under Article 196 of the RSFSR Criminal Code, which deals with the forgery of "official documents which confer rights or exempt from obligations". The documents in question appear to have been letters from official institutions requesting access for him to certain archival holdings.

As professional historians, we are seriously concerned that Roginski should be charged with an offence which appears to

signify no more than that he was trying, under very adverse conditions, to continue carrying out his professional duties. Neither foreign publication nor the attempt to gain access to archive sources can be regarded as criminal offences. The right which Roginski wished to exercise was one he already had under Article 46 of the Soviet Constitution, which guarantees citizens "use of artefacts of culture", to be ensured by their being made "generally available in official and public collections". If indeed he misused official documents in the process, then this is at most a misdemeanour committed under stress and warranting no harsher penalty than a period of exclusion from the archives concerned.

We would urge the Soviet judicial authorities to reconsider the case of Arsenii Roginski, and to dismiss the charges against him on appeal.

Yours etc, GEOFFREY BEST, R. H. HILTON, MAURICE CRANSTON, DAVID MARQUAND, R. H. C. DAVIS, BRIAN RULLAN, C. R. ELTON, S. P. THOMPSON, RODERICK FLOOD, DOROTHY THOMPSON, J. A. S. GRENVILLE, D. CAMERON, NORMAN HAMPTON, STUART WOOLF, JAMES JOLL, JOHN VINCENT, Department of History, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, February 2.

Canada's constitution

From Chief Roger Jimmie and others
Sir, we, the undersigned Chiefs, write to express our concerns at the contents of your leading article "All clear for patriation" (January 30).

The article drew attention to the fact that the claim made by the Indian Association of Alberta has been rejected by the Court of Appeal. It implied that, subject to further appeal, the effect of the judgment is to leave no Indian claims pending in the English courts.

That, however, is not in accordance with the facts. The claim made by the Indian nations of British Columbia, Manitoba and Ontario (their writ was issued on December 10, 1981) has yet to be considered by the courts in this country.

The plaintiffs are seeking to expedite the hearing of their case, which is based on very

different grounds from the Alberta claim. It argues that any legislation to patriate the Canadian Constitution requires the consent of provincial legislatures and of the Indian nations.

Under these circumstances it is not unreasonable to expect that the British Government, which indicated its willingness not to press ahead with the Canada Bill until the Alberta appeal could be heard, will adopt a similar approach to the present litigation.

Yours sincerely, CHIEF ROGER JIMMIE (Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs), EDWIN M. BRUTYER (Pawnee), DENNIS (Dakota Tip Reserve, Manitoba), TOMMY GESNO (Port Hope Reserve, Ontario), GRAND CHIEF WALLACE (Nishnabeski Aashí' Nation, Ontario), DAVID HUNT (Kwakwaka' Band, Kwakwaka' Nation, British Columbia), Office of First Nations, 2 The Mansions, Bramham Gardens, SW5, February 1.

Consular service

From Mr Edward Fuller
Sir, Lady Marley (January 29) complains of an extra fee for consular services "out of hours". As an American journalist I recently had occasion to observe the problems faced by the British Consulate in Rome during regular hours. Each week during the tourist season hundreds of people expect help because of stolen handbags, documents, money, travel tickets, etc.

One couple arrived at the consulate in bathing costume — all they had left when their car with all their possessions inside was stolen. Another man arrived in his wife's stretch slacks — all he had available when luggage was stolen from his hotel room during the night. The consular staff arranged to buy trousers for him and the consul herself took them home on her lunch hour to sew up the cuffs. These problems are in addition to the normal duties of registering births, arranging visas, dealing with death certificates, etc.

Rarely have I seen such efficiency and courtesy with a sympathetic staff doing all they could. Presumably some consulates are better than others but from my observation I think all British subjects should be grateful to have these hard-working people there to help in time of need.

If Lady Marley objected to paying an additional £17 for services demanded when the

consulate was closed, she could easily have waited and gone there on Monday morning. As she found the casual bystanders and the French police such revelations of kindness, surely she could have borrowed the Métro fare.

Yours faithfully, EDWARD FULLER, Springfield Farm, Buckhorn-Weston, Near Gillingham, Dorset, February 1.

Home brewed

From Miss Emma Wigglesworth
Sir, In your Business News of January 30 Mr Shindler, Secretary of the National Association of Licensed House Managers, is reported as saying that home brewing is unfair competition.

This extraordinary statement could well be applied to home cooking, home dressmaking, home decorating, home movies or even, perhaps, playing the piano at home.

Rather than suggesting a tax on those who are doing their best to cope with inflation the association should do the same as other industries and find new ways of attracting custom.

Yours faithfully, EMMA WIGGLESWORTH, 53 Canonbury Park South, N1, January 30.

Devolution option for Ulster

From Mr William McDowell
Sir, David Watt's thinking on Ulster (feature, January 29) seems somewhat incoherent. He correctly perceives that the likelihood of a Government initiative on Ulster managing to establish a devolved Assembly is extremely remote. It is also made clear in his article that neither the DUP nor the SDLP can at present be expected to help make such a legislature work and furthermore the "moderate" parties are too weak to be of any effective assistance to such a scheme. But somewhat strangely the aforementioned points don't lead Mr Watt to conclude that devolution for Ulster, at least for the time being, is too dangerous to be attempted.

There is, on this, one point he fails to mention (the significance of which seems to be missed by many, both in and outside of the province) that with unemployment in Northern Ireland at nearly a fifth of the total workforce the atmosphere generally is too pessimistic to allow for such visionary institutional goals to be achieved.

Mr Watt also suggests that direct rule has failed Ulster in the long run, when in actual fact it is just beginning to succeed. The IRA played their ultimate cards last year — the hunger strike and the murder of the Unionist South Belfast MP, the Rev Robert Bradford. The worst is over. The British Government needs to stand resolute and patient.

David Watt concludes by writing, "we have now reached a point where the riskiest policy of all is to sit tight and do nothing"; but this is not what the integrationists are asking for. It would be best for the Conservatives to do what they originally proposed in their manifesto: "In the absence of devolved government, we will seek to establish one or more elected regional councils."

Prior should establish a regional council, and if that move proves after a few years to have been successful, well, who knows what the future holds? The important point always to remember is that Ireland's problems cannot be solved quickly; if there is a solution it will take years to come about. Ulster is not another Rhodesia.

Yours etc, W. McDOWELL, Bloomfield, Belfast, January 29.

Stalemate in Cyprus

From Mr O. F. Muftizade
Sir, In the last paragraph of your analysis of Turkey's European credentials (leader, January 29) you suggest that the Turkish Government should "be seen to make a serious and urgent effort to reach a solution to the Cyprus conflict" which would enable it to withdraw its troops from North Cyprus.

Notwithstanding the fact that the present Turkish Government has been making both behind the scenes and visual efforts to contribute to the success of the current peace exercise in Cyprus, renouncing support to Dr Waldheim's evaluation, to mention but one — you seem to have missed a vital point over this issue: Greece, too, must make meaningful and visual efforts if an honourable agreement between the two partner communities in Cyprus is to be achieved, in which case, as your leader points out, a withdrawal can be possible, since the all-important "security" issue will no longer prevent it.

However, in the same issue of *The Times*, your own correspondent quotes Greece's socialist Prime Minister, Mr Papandreu, as declaring that "Cyprus is part of the Hellenic nation". I believe that even the most ultra-nationalist Greek politician would have thought twice before making such an outburst about binational Cyprus at this delicate stage.

I feel I am justified in expecting *The Times* to be more sensitive and factual in apportioning the blame for the current stalemate in Cyprus. Yours faithfully, O. F. MUFTIZADE, London Representative of the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus, 28 Cockspur Street, SW1, January 29.

Radio print

From Miss Margaret Smith
Sir, I wonder if there is any scientific basis for the curious assumption made by publishers of newspapers that those people who listen to radio programmes have better eyesight than those who watch television.

Yours faithfully, MARGARET SMITH, 2 Willowslea Road, Bevere, Worcester.

A town like Townsville

From Mr Noel F. Webster
Sir, "City of Townsville", the name of an Australian airliner observed at Heathrow by your correspondent G. H. Neild (February 3) is not, as he suggests, an example of tautological Oz-speak.

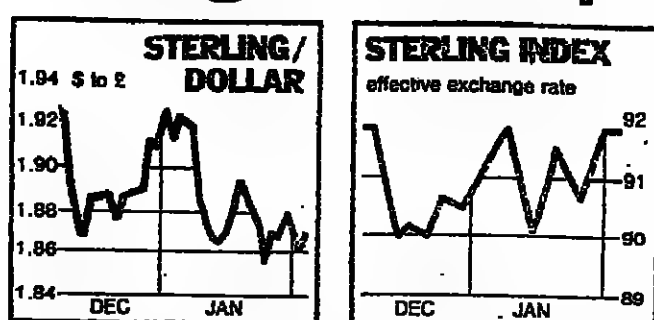
The Queensland port of Townsville was named after its founder, Robert Towns, in 1865, and was designated a city the following year.

Aussies 1, Poms 0.

Yours faithfully, NOEL F. WEBSTER, 5 Cecil Close, Mount Avenue, Ealing, W5, February 3.

BUSINESS NEWS

Sterling one cent up



The pound rose against the dollar on the money markets but fell against some other major currencies. The effective rate slipped slightly, closing at 91.7, down 0.3. It was 100 points up against the American currency, at \$1.8700. The pound has been strengthening for some days on the effective rate, climbing one percentage point during the last eight trading days.

Nissan UK talks

Senior executives of Nissan, the Japanese car maker, are expected in London next week for talks in Whitehall on the company's proposed United Kingdom car manufacturing plant. The delegation will be led by Mr Masataka Okuma, vice-president. Nissan is believed to have selected a site for the factory last year, probably in the north-east. The talks are expected to lead to a formal announcement of the chosen site.

PSBR on course

The public sector borrowing requirement in the nine months to December totalled £9,710m. But after allowing an estimated £3,000m for the impact of the civil servants' dispute, the underlying figure is about £6,750m, apparently on course for the Government's estimate of £10,500m for the full financial year. In the three months to December, the PSBR was only £212m, helped by the recovery of about £1,500m of delayed tax.

● Ghana is the world's most expensive country for a Briton, according to a survey by Employment Conditions Abroad. Inflation there means a British style of meal would cost more than ten times as much as in Britain.

Gatt inquiry

An 11-man team of international economists began work in London yesterday on an investigation into the impact of trade protectionism. The group, chaired by Sir Alec Cairncross, will report to a Gatt ministers' meeting next November.

● The board of Thomas W. Ward has now accepted R. Tinto Zinc's increased offer, which went unconditional on January 25.

● Grand Metropolitan has sold to Vaux Breweries of Sunderland, the International Hotel in West London for £7.7m.

● The Government and industry is to launch a joint campaign to promote the British viewpoint system Prestel to consumers.

MARKET SUMMARY

Lucas leads a retreat

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 574.8 down 0.16
FT 100 64.95 up 0.32
FT All Share 328.72 down 1.40
Bargains 19,335

Move more than 1,000 redundancies jobs at Lucas Industries' aerospace division produced a sharp burst of reverses thrust to the market's ambitions yesterday.

After a cautious start, equities, retreated amid nervous selling, something the jobbers had tried to achieve all week, as stock shortages became more acute. The FT index closed 3.2 down at 574.8 after being 2.3 down at 10am.

Lucas shares tumbled 8p to 221p and were the cause of heavy losses on all other aerospace leaders. Smiths Industries fell 12p to 356p, Hawker Siddeley 10p to 340p, and British Aerospace 8p to 195p.

Gifts also showed signs of running out of steam, but, after initial falls recovered to close 2 1/2 up in longs and 2 1/2 up in shorts in reduced trade.

Among blue chips P & O & Q resisted the trend rose 1p to 135p on renewed Far Eastern support. Several market sources said the long-awaited bid could be weeks away instead of months.

Elsewhere in shipping, London & Overseas Freighters added a further 1 1/2p to 62p in expectation of a bid from Leane Investments, the Panamanian group acting on behalf of Mr Faisal Hashim, who owns 17.23 per cent of the equity.

Royal Dutch/Shell fell 80p to £17.03 1/2 as a line of 200,000 shares, worth £3.5m, went through the market at £17.50p. This in turn depressed Shell, which slipped 6p to 372p.

Shares of Platinium, the pen manufacturer, were suspended 1p up at 8p after news of a possible bid approach. The company said it was studying proposals submitted by a third party. Last year it made losses of almost £500,000 and at last night's level was valued at just under £1.5m.

The buyers were out in force for 8 & W Bristow amid talk of a favourable takeover. But a spokesman for Bristow's brokers, W Greenwell, said the institutions were buying ahead of the dividend. The shares, which go ex-div on February 18, rose 5p to 138p, after 136p.

Miller and Allen jumped 14p to 542p as Hambros Bank sold its stake of 1.2m shares to Hambros Investment Trust.

Shareholders in the brewery industry were offered little encouragement by a spate of annual meetings. Matthew Brown eased 4p to 174p after being told by the chairman that the bad weather had again hit sales.

At Greenall Whittier, figures were down in the first quarter and the chairman said it would be difficult to maintain profits at last year's level. The price slipped 1p to 124p.

Meanwhile, Arthur Guinness shareholders were told that beer sales in Ireland had fallen and that negotiations for the sale of Callard & Bowser had reached an advanced stage. The shares fell 1p to 74p.

Vaux Brewery also fell 5p to 127p after announcing it had just paid £7.7m for one of Grand Metropolitan's London hotels.

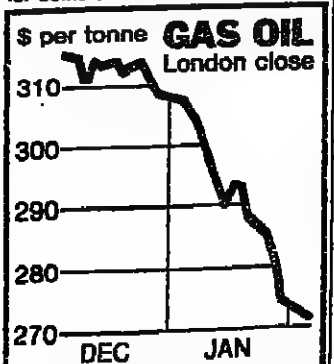
Better than expected profits news added 13p to Blundell-Permezzani at 107p, but first half losses left Smith Bros, one of the market's two quoted jobbers, 3p off at 37p.

Equity turnover on February 3 was 2175.15m (17,107 bargains).

Michael Clark

COMMODITIES

● Gas oil prices mainly held on the International Petroleum Exchange in London yesterday, with May closing at £271.50-£272 a tonne. More distant contracts weakened were also steady suggesting that traders expect Saudi Arabian oil production to remain below 8.5m barrels a day for some time.



● By contrast, coffee rose noticeably. March robustas were up £76.50 a tonne to £1,286, and May was £37 higher at £1,208. Traders said nearby supplies are still tight.

TODAY

Housing starts and completions for December.
Company results: Burt Boulton, Dura Mill, English Associated Group, ML Holdings, (half-year), Portsmouth and Sunderland (3 months), Associated British American and General Trust, Glasgow Stockholders Trust (finals).

OTHER EXCHANGES

Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1,384.15 down 15.77
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 7,834 down 26.24.

CURRENCIES

● The dollar weakened in late trading. The pound recovered from a day's low of \$1.8615.

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling \$1187.00 up 100 points
Index 91.7 down 0.1
DM 4.3775
Fr.F 11.0900
Gr.F 435.50
DOLLAR
Index 111.4 unchanged
DM 2.3350 down 220 pts
GOLD
\$384.50 up \$6.25

MONEY MARKETS

● Markets held steady. The Bank bought £262m of bills on a forecast shortage of £300m. Its dealing rates were unchanged.

Domestic Rates:
Base rates 14%
3-month interbank 145-144
Euro-Currency Rates:
3 month dollar 15-15 1/2
3 month DM 10 1/4-10 1/2
3 month Fr.F 15 1/4-15 1/2

Storm over tripled US budget deficit

From Bailey Morris Washington, Feb 4

A new turore over the Reagan Administration's handling of budget figures erupted in the US House of Representatives today as Democratic and Republican leaders received more bad news about the projected deficit for the 1982 fiscal year.

Based on current estimates of total Federal revenues expected in the 1982 fiscal year ending in September, House leaders were told they must write a new 1982 budget resolution showing a deficit almost triple the earlier projection.

The 1982 deficit is now expected to climb to \$109,500m, up sharply from the earlier projection of \$37,700m largely because of increased defence expenditures and higher than expected costs for social programmes.

Members of the House budget committee received unpublished figures showing greatly increased Federal outlays of \$741,000m in 1982 and lower than expected revenues for the year of \$631,200m.

This would result in a deficit of more than \$1,000m, Mrs Alice Rivlin, director of the Congressional Budget Office said. She disclosed the figure in testimony before the House armed services committee.

The United States stock market reacted to the news almost immediately dropping three points by midday after showing small gains most of the morning.

Mr James Jones, the Democratic chairman of the committee said the new deficit forecast indicated the Administration's basic economic assumptions have been wrong all along. He said they

raise doubts about the numbers to be included in the new 1983 budget message to congress.

Based on current administration policies and without further steep budget cuts, the deficit is expected to climb from \$109,000m in fiscal year to \$157,000m in fiscal 1983 and up to \$250,000m by fiscal 1986, Congressional budget figures indicated.

Mrs Rivlin blamed the new estimates on the Reagan Administration's military buildup which she said would not rekindle inflation but could retard economic growth greatly by producing huge deficits and high interest rates.

Mr Jones said his committee had received new figures from the administration showing higher costs for unemployment and greatly reduced tax revenues resulting from lower incomes in the United States during the first six months of fiscal 1982.

Incomes were down by \$30,000m during the period and oil prices dropped by about \$8,000m. This cut Federal revenues from the \$657,000m assumed in the earlier budget resolution to \$631,200m.

At the same time, Mr Jones said, projected federal outlays, had risen sharply because of \$8,000m in new unemployment costs and \$7,400m in higher federal interest costs to finance the debt.

Total outlays in fiscal 1982 are now expected to reach \$740,700m compared with \$695,500m projected in the earlier budget resolution.

Emergency powers for Belgian economy

From Peter Norman, Brussels, Feb 4

Belgium's centre-right coalition government of Mr Wilfried Martens has put forward its first "train" of measures to revive the country's economy. Others will follow soon under the emergency powers that parliament granted the government this week to push through its economic programme.

In tackling Belgium's economic problems of high unemployment, a huge budget deficit and a growing gap in the current account balance of payments, Mr Martens's coalition of right-wing liberal and centrist Christian parties has chosen to mix wage restraint and government austerity with pro-business measures to get investment moving.

The week's first package of measures under the special powers were anything but painful. To aid the building industry the government has decided to cut value added tax on construction to 6 per cent from 17 per cent for two years, and suppress capital gains tax on unused building land.

It is awarding tax concessions to the self-employed and owners of small businesses and reducing VAT on gold to just 1 per cent from 6 per cent.

Oil taxation policies readily criticized

By Jonathan Davis, Energy Correspondent

Several North Sea oil fields now offer less than commercial rates of return as a result of the harsher tax regime introduced by the Government last year, two oil experts claim today.

Mr Alexander Kemp, Reader in Economics at Aberdeen University, and Mr David Rose, his research assistant, say that the introduction of special petroleum duty in the last Budget has pushed the real rate of return on Shell, Esso's South Cormorant discovery and the Feffer field operated by Union Oil, two proven fields, below 10 per cent.

A number of other fields, including Beatrice and Magnus, give real returns of less

than 15 per cent, the minimum that oil companies are normally prepared to accept for such high-risk capital-intensive projects.

In an 82-page submission to the Chancellor, the two academics say that the North Sea fiscal system is "badly in need of reform". They call for the existing complicated four-tier tax regime, consisting of royalty, special petroleum duty, petroleum revenue tax and corporation tax, to be scrapped and replaced by a single "progressive profits tax".

Occidental Petroleum has decided to press ahead with the appraisal of a field it discovered in 1975. The field, a few miles to the south west of Occidental's Claymore field, is to be called Scapa.



Hoesch's cold rolling mill at Dortmund: modern mills but outmoded steelmaking plant.

Heavy losses lead to German steel merger

From Peter Norman, Brussels, Feb 4

West Germany's second and third largest steel companies today announced plans to merge their steel making capacity to be known as Ruhrstahl AG.

The plans were approved at meetings of the supervisory boards of Krupp Stahl in Bochum and Estel Hoesch Werke in Dortmund.

A joint statement said the steelmaking operations would be pooled by the end of this year with other divisions following as soon as possible.

Krupp Stahl and Hoesch have incurred heavy losses as a result of the European steel crisis. The decision to pool their resources follows more than a year of discussions and will be followed by a request for state aid to help finance rationalization measures.

The two companies each produced around five million tonnes of crude steel last year, accounting for about one quarter of total West German output. Their combined turnover was around DM12,000 (*2.750m).

Krupp Stahl is the steel-making arm of the Krupp engineering and heavy plant manufacturing group while Estel Hoesch Werke is the West German part of Dutch-West German Estel.

The two firms will have equal shares in the new

Ruhrstahl company. Both have been struggling to modernize since the steel crisis in 1974. Hoesch has been handicapped by its outmoded Siemens Martin steelmaking plant in Dortmund but has modern capacities to produce sheet and plated steels. Krupp has invested heavily in building up its special steel capacity.

The companies said they would be able to cut costs through the better use of existing plant, through eliminating overlapping production divisions and avoiding duplicate investments.

They announced a series of new investment projects including the concentration of steel-making in Dortmund in a new oxygen plant with an annual production capacity of 3,500 tonnes.

Meanwhile, Thyssen, the largest West German steel and engineering group, is now breaking even on its steelmaking operations and hopes to be in profit from the second quarter of this year.

The company has so much confidence in the future that it is planning a rights issue.

Dr Dieter Spethmann, Thyssen's chief executive, said in Dusseldorf yesterday that shares would probably be offered in a ratio of one to five when stock market conditions allowed.

Chrysler tanks sale

The board of Chrysler, the troubled United States car company, met yesterday to consider a \$350m (£187.5m) offer for its tank division from General Dynamics, one of the leading American manufacturers of military hardware. Talks have also been going on between the two companies and the

Pentagon. The Chrysler subsidiary, which builds the M1 battle tank, makes annual profits of around \$60m. Mr Lee Iacocca, the Chrysler chief, is said to have agreed reluctantly to the sale rather than risk the bad publicity of any further request for government aid.

Tin market on verge of crisis

By Michael Prest

London's tin market was on the verge of crisis last night despite recent attempts by the London Metal Exchange authorities to restore calm. The price of cash tin rose another £110 to £2,945 a tonne, while the three months price fell £32 to £2,805.

Dealers said that the major buyer who has dominated the market since last summer did not sell any tin yesterday. This forced up the price of cash tin and widened still further the backwardation — cash prices are normally lower than forward prices. Tin is needed by speculators who went short three months ago and whose contracts mature on February 25 and 26.

The LME committee is therefore faced with the real danger that a corner in tin has been built up. On Tuesday the committee said that after discussions with ring dealing members it had reached an understanding that the premium on cash tin should be limited to £120.

But market sources said that the supply tightness, which loomed later in the month and which was the authorities' main concern, had spread to almost all dates for February delivery. As a result normal trading on the LME tin market has virtually ceased and the LME committee is faced with a major challenge.

Trading yesterday was largely limited to switching between different delivery dates as traders tried to match their obligations. Dealers have complained for several months that industry has left the market, and some fear that LME's reputation is being damaged.

The immediate cause of the squeeze is delay to tin shipments aggravated in the view of some traders by the misjudgment of market psychology by the LME committee. But behind these factors lies heavy buying since last July which traders believe has come from tin producers led by Malaysia. The buyers have spent at least £350m acquiring more than 50,000 tonnes of tin.

CBI Budget plans 'modest'

By Edward Townsend and Rupert Morris

The Confederation of British Industry's plan for a £1,800m boost for industry would not throw the Government's economic plans off course and out of kilter, Sir Terence Beckett, CBI director-general said yesterday.

He had issued a challenge to the government to accept the CBI's Budget proposals which he reckoned were modest, constructive and absolutely consistent with the government's overall objectives.

Speaking in London, Sir Terence said: "Even more important, they are one hundred per cent consistent with the best interests of United Kingdom trade and industry. That is why they deserve to be supported and adopted."

"What our package does is to enable the Chancellor to keep one of the major promises of this government's election manifesto — to restore the health of our economic life and still control inflation."

The CBI is seeking an

increase in productive investment in 1982-83 of £250m, rising to £1,000m the following year, which would be more than offset by reductions in government current spending.

The National Insurance Surcharge, which the CBI wants cut by two per cent, was now widely recognised as a tax on jobs and home-produced goods and virtually a subsidy for imports, he said.

"In fact, NIS is the exact opposite of an export subsidy and if we attempted to levy such a subsidy, we would soon have Gatt and the EEC breathing down our necks. How perverse can you get?"

Meanwhile a reduction in interest rates is the key to the recovery for British industry, according to the Association of British Chambers of Commerce in its budget submissions to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The association, which represents 57,000 member firms through its 87 local chambers, believes its approach to be more realistic

than the CBI's "catch-all" package which it sees as lacking any consistent policy. Warning that failure to help industry cut costs and increase output will leave it not "leaner and fitter" but "smaller and weaker", the Association put forward two alternative strategies.

The first, and more favoured, strategy is simply to reduce the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement by £3,000m, immediately reducing interest rates and, so the argument goes, stimulating private investment and boosting output.

But anticipating that such a drastic pruning of the PSBR may prove politically impossible, the Association suggests an alternative approach on reducing industry's costs.

This strategy requires a 50 per cent cut in employers' National Insurance Surcharge, cheaper energy for British firms, a reduction in public utility charges and investment in road and rail systems.

Jobbers hit by lean market

By Sally White

Roller-coaster share prices and the low ebb of interest in British equities last summer caused a slump at Smith Bros, one of the two quoted jobbing firms on the London market. There was a pretax loss of £798,000, as a result of which the dividend for the six months to October 23 has been halved at 0.5p, paid out of reserves.

Mr Anthony Lewis, the chairman, says there has been an appreciable improvement in trading in the third quarter. He adds: "It is impossible at this stage to forecast the results for the full year."

The loss per share is 3.7p as against earnings per share of 7p for the same period of the previous year.

Smith Bros does not deal in gilt-edged stock but trades in 1,800 different shares across many of the equity sectors, and specializes in the gold market.

Business Editor, page 17

New rub-out pen joins £85m sales battle

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

A novel ball-point pen whose latex-based ink can be erased with a rubber is adding a new dimension to the already complex battle among different systems in the £85m-sales pens market.

A carbon-copy battle of the new throwaway erasable ball-points seen in the United States between Gille's Papermate range and Wilkinson Sword's Scripto starts next month in Britain. In the United States the tussle between these two companies, long rival in the razors market, has taken volume sales of the erasable ballpoints to as high a level

as the rolling ball, the last big technology leap in pens. The rolling ball pen, which first made a big sales impact just over three years ago, uses a wet ink in contrast to the original ballpoints which employ thicker oil-based ink paste. Rolling ball pens account for at least 12 per cent by value of the UK market, according to Wilkinson Sword, but other trade sources claim 17 per cent and more.

The rolling ball, in which Japan's Pentel is a major player, is a mutant between the traditional ballpoint and the fountain pen (now with under 9 per cent market share by value). The description comes from Mr Graham White, marketing manager for Wilkinson Sword, a subsidiary of Allegheny International based in Pittsburgh in the United States.

He sees the erasable ballpoint as a variation between the traditional ballpoint and the pencil. Wood-case pencils are a £14m sector which pushes the total market to nearly £100m a year but Mr White expects the erasable ballpoint to hit sales not so

much of pencils but of cheap traditional ballpoints.

This is because the biggest customers for erasable ballpoints, at about 35p a piece, are expected to be schoolchildren although there could also be some sales for office use. Accountants, who appear to favour microfine pens, might be a target consumers when erasables appear in this category.

Little impact is foreseen on sales of fibre pens, another user of wet ink, which now account for about 16 per cent of the overall market by value, according to Mr White.

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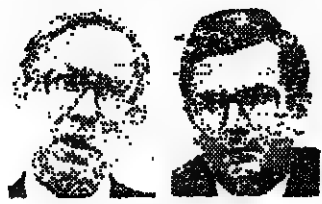
BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

PEOPLE

ICL heads for the City

Businessmen who take Government money and occasionally honours — John De Lorean, Sir Michael Edwards (BL), Sir Peter Parker (BR) and Lord Kearsley of British National Oil Corporation tend to lose their City clout the moment they take the Queen's shilling.

Will Christopher Laidlaw (chairman) and Robb Wilmot (managing director) of ICL, our leading computer maker,



ICL's Laidlaw and Wilmot

stand out in this dismal crowd? Yesterday Mr Laidlaw and his right hand man met a gaggle of City institutions and stockbrokers, one lot in the morning and the other in the afternoon, to convince them that they, (and the group) had a future.

Mr Wilmot, one must remember is the City's best paid 36-year-old (£150,000 a year) with a Wimbledon house worth nearly £300,000 (why pick on Lord Cade and Ralph Halpern or Burton?). Moreover, the dynamic duo had the City's money men eating out of their hands at the end of an hour long session.

Briefly, ICL, recently the butt of a Government £200m rescue, is on target for around £30m of profits after 1980-81's £50m of losses, and many more deals like the one with Fujitsu of Japan are on the way. Promises, they say, are gifts for fools, and ones made informally can only be for idiots. Whatever, the duo yesterday told the City what it wanted to hear.

This may not be the moment to say so, but if you fancy your chances with Red Ken and Blue Maggie, why not call London Transport, where a successor to the embattled Sir Peter Massfield as £36,000 a year chairman of L.T. is being sought. Tyzack & Co, the headhunters, I hear, have been left off the leash and ordered to bring back somebody, preferably in his or her early 50s who from this March or so could take on one or possibly two, five-year terms.

Life on the Left Bank

To the relief of the rather conservative staff of France's second largest bank, Credit Lyonnais, their man is Jean Defassieux, aged 56, who for the last 10 years has been in charge of the international department. There had been fears that the government might choose a Communist ideologue like Philippe Herzog.

Defassieux cooperated with the Left under his Resistance pseudonym Jean-Pierre Barel and he was largely responsible for preparing the Socialist Party's plan for the nationalisation of the French banking sector. Credit Lyonnais was nationalized just after the war and the government will merely take over the minority held by employees. Ironically, the employees shareholders may now receive only 342F for their stock instead of 711F as originally promised.

Defassieux shakes over from a close collaborator of former President Giscard d'Estaing, Claude Pierre-Drostelette.

Here endeth the third week of the new People column, and here begins a new editor. From Tuesday morning, I shall be handing over to my colleague, Peter Wainwright, whom I shall commend to you. As for me, I shall be occupying my space on Mondays only with Inter-City, Business News's new regional column. See you Monday.

Ross Davies

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Mr Philip G. Ratcliff has been appointed managing director of UTP Packaging Company. He succeeds Mr Sidney A. Bailey who will continue in his capacity as chairman.

Mr William R. O. Griffiths has been appointed a director of William Leach.

Dr Iain Anderson has been appointed chairman of the international fragrance and flavour company PPF which was formed by the recent merger of Proprietary Perfumery, Food Industries and Bertrand Freres.

Mr Peter Samuel has been appointed chairman of Samuel Properties. He succeeds Viscount Beaufort, who has retired.

Mr Peter Phillips, managing director of Tyne Tees Television, and Mr Robert Phillips, managing director of Central Independent Television have been appointed to the board of Independent Television News.

Mr Neville Simms has been appointed to the board of Tarmac Construction.

Mrs Georgina Andrews has been appointed a director of S. Simpson. Mrs Andrews has been a director of the retail subsidiary company, Simpson (Piccadilly) since January 1977.

Peter Wilson-Smith on the progress of proposals to reform London's insurance market

Final hurdles for the Lloyd's Bill



Peter Green, Lloyd's chairman, and the claimant

The Lloyd's Bill to bring up to date the archaic rules and procedures of the London insurance market where the rich and famous stake their fortunes, lurched another small step forward in its tortuous path through Parliament this week.

The Bill — which will modernize self-regulatory procedures dating back to the 1871 Lloyd's Act — has caused deep divisions among the 20,000 underwriting members of Lloyd's, among those who actually work in the market and among the Lloyd's brokers.

Despite the intensive examination the Bill was subjected to by the House of Commons committee headed by the Minister of State, Mr Michael Meacher, Labour MP for Oldham West, divisions still remain. But in face of delaying tactics by Conservative backbenchers on Wednesday night, the Bill looks set to continue on its course.

The motion to start the report stage of the Bill was finally carried without a division on Wednesday and providing more time is found for the Bill, which seems likely, the next stage will be to consider amendments. Although some 23 amendments were tabled the Speaker has whittled these down to two covering the main issues of the "immunity" for the new ruling council and "divestment" — the clause which would force brokers to sell off their underwriting interests.

It seems that another two or three sessions may be found to debate these two issues and Lloyd's itself remains confident. Mr Peter Miller, the Lloyd's committee member who has had the unenviable task of trying to pilot the Bill through, said: "We are confident that the Government will find further time to enable the examination of the amendments to be concluded and to allow the Bill to move to a third reading, and then to the House of Lords."

Mr Miller feels the Bill could get the Royal Assent by mid-summer and remains adamant that Lloyd's has no intention of making any more compromises.

However the opponents of the Bill are still set on forcing through changes. Mr Malcolm Pearson, of Lloyd's broker Pearson Webb Springbett, has been campaigning fiercely to get the immunity clause removed from the Bill. Mr Pearson, who has been working closely with Conservative backbenchers, said yesterday that the battle would continue.

"The market is now against this Bill and I think it is very foolish to blunder on with it," he said. Mr Pearson believes it is foolish of Lloyd's to include Clause 14, the immunity clause, when it risks bringing down the Bill, and he believes that Wednesday night's debate showed as much.

"It showed that there are seven to eight Tory MPs who are strongly enough to support Clause 14 to do everything they can to frustrate the Bill," he says.

Certainly the possibility of the Tory backbenchers talking the Bill out still cannot be discounted. They demonstrated on Wednesday night that they were capable of doing so although it seemed equally clear that the Bill's opponents did not want to kill it altogether.

The Mexican trial will be the world's first commercial application of electronic signature verification — a security precaution that is likely to become a common method of personal identification within a few years.

The verification system, known as Verisign, is supplied by a new British company, Transaction Security, which is 40 per cent owned by Finance For Industry. Its technology was derived from research at the National Physical Laboratory, licensed through the British Technology Group.

While a practiced forger can produce a false signature that looks virtually identical to the real thing, experiments show that no one can imitate the speed and rhythm with which another person writes. Therefore, Verisign measures not only shape — including the area of the signature, length of ink on the paper, number of line crossings, up strokes and down strokes — but also the timing — such as speed and acceleration, sequence of dots and line crossings.

The National Physical Laboratory's original Verisign hardware used an ordinary ball-pen or pencil on a pressure-sensitive pad, writing on it made electrical contact between two mem-

The one point on which most in Parliament and those involved with Lloyd's agree, is that a Bill is urgently needed. It has become increasingly apparent in recent years in the wake of the various scandals such as the Sasse affair, the troubles surrounding the Christopher Moran Group, and the Savona affair, that the powers of the Lloyd's committee are both inadequate and outdated.

A recent example involving the Christopher Moran Group serves to illustrate

this. The committee is presently trying to expel Mr Reid Wilson, a Lloyd's underwriter formerly connected with the Moran Group, from membership of the market for what it describes as acts "discreditable to him as an underwriter". Mr Wilson began in 1979 and only last month Lloyd's announced its findings.

However it now needs a four-fifths vote of members at a special meeting to expel him, and all this nearly three years after it first started investigating the issue.

Of the two main issues now surrounding the Bill — immunity and divestment — the latter was carefully examined at the committee stage and in the view of Michael Meacher is crucial to the Bill. "If divestment were not included I would not want the bill to be passed," he says.

The opposition to divestment, which was included at the instance of the Commons Committee, has been spearheaded by the Alexander Howden group, a Lloyd's broker with big underwriting interests.

The story behind the Bill:

1979: Following a succession of scandals Lloyd's decides to set up a working party under former High Court judge Sir Henry Fisher to examine and recommend on its self-regulatory powers.

June 1980: Fisher Report is published and recommends wide ranging changes to bring the insurance market's procedures up to date. It urges setting up new ruling council for the market with not-working underwriting representatives, a wide range of penalties and divestment of underwriting agents by insurance brokers. Report includes a draft

bill which would transfer to newly formed council the rule-making and disciplinary powers vested in a general meeting of members.

Nov 1980: At Albert Hall meeting Lloyd's members vote for introduction of a Lloyd's bill based on Fisher Report proposals — excluding divestment.

Jan 1981: Newly formed External Names Association decides to fight for changes in Bill.

May 1981: House of Commons committee headed by Mr Michael Meacher shocks Lloyd's by demanding both divestment and divorce.

July 1981: Lloyd's members vote for divestment but not for divorce and Commons committee agrees.

Dec 1981: Commons committee rejects petition from Lloyd's with extensive underwriting interests, to remove divestment clause from Bill.

Jan 1981: Opposition grows to Clause 14 which would give new ruling council of Lloyd's immunity from being sued for damages by members. Conservative backbenchers threaten to try to block Bill unless Lloyd's compromises.

Bank's electronic war on forgery

TECHNOLOGY: COMPUTER SECURITY

By Clive Cookson

From May, customers of the National Financial Bank will have to sign on an electronic pad before they withdraw money from any of the 50 branches in Mexico City. A microprocessor will analyse each signature and compare it with the customer's "reference signature" stored in the bank computer.

The Mexican trial will be the world's first commercial application of electronic signature verification — a security precaution that is likely to become a common method of personal identification within a few years.

The verification system, known as Verisign, is supplied by a new British company, Transaction Security, which is 40 per cent owned by Finance For Industry. Its technology was derived from research at the National Physical Laboratory, licensed through the British Technology Group.

While a practiced forger can produce a false signature that looks virtually identical to the real thing, experiments show that no one can imitate the speed and rhythm with which another person writes. Therefore, Verisign measures not only shape — including the area of the signature, length of ink on the paper, number of line crossings, up strokes and down strokes — but also the timing — such as speed and acceleration, sequence of dots and line crossings.

The National Physical Laboratory's original Verisign hardware used an ordinary ball-pen or pencil on a pressure-sensitive pad, writing on it made electrical contact between two mem-



Signing in — technical manager Rod Beaton and secretary Susan Kennell

branes in the pad. But this has moved on to an "electronic pen", which sets up an electromagnetic field detected by sensors in the pad. It does not depend on contact and can follow the pen's movement while it is off the pad. An advantage is that it does not wear out so easily.

When a new user — say, a bank customer — comes to Verisign for the first time, he is asked to sign five times on the pad. The computer analyses the shape and timing of the signatures and, if there are unusual inconsistencies, it automatically requests some more. The samples are processed to produce a reference signature.

If one of the standard measures varies too much in a signature, the computer will not take that particular feature into account in its reference signature. For example, size would be dropped for someone whose signature was sometimes small, large and sometimes small, so the system would not always challenge his identity.

Everyone has enough stable but unique writing features to make a reference signature. By means of coded mathematical operations known as algorithms, the Verisign software converts the reference signature into a few hundred binary digits, which may be stored in the memory of a central computer or on the magnetic stripe of a credit or identity card.

Whenever the user signs in, he generates a new stream of digits which have to be almost identical to the reference to be accepted. The difference allowed between reference and actual signatures is set to accommodate the variability of an individual's writing without accepting a forgery.

The bank or other owner of a Verisign system can automatically vary the rejection threshold to reflect the value of a transaction or the damage that false acceptance would cause. For example, the threshold would be very low for someone withdrawing

£100,000 — attending a genuine customer is far less serious than handing the cash to a forger. And of course, the rejected customer can be given the opportunity to prove his identity in another way. But for withdrawals of £100 the threshold could be raised considerably without much financial risk.

When a prototype Verisign terminal was used to protect access to Esso's IBM computer, it correctly authorised 580 users and rejected only four genuine signatures. All 189 attempted forgeries were rejected during the experiment, said Mr Rod Beaton, TSL technical manager.

Of course, signature is not the only personal characteristic that could be used for electronic identification. Alternatives include fingerprints, hand geometry and voice recognition. But Mr David Law, TSL managing director, believes that signing is the most socially acceptable method for institutions that deal with the public.

immunity remains a much more contentious issue. The Committee of Lloyd's remains adamant that it must be included. It argues that without some form of immunity it would not be able to carry out its new regulatory duties properly.

The committee fears that if it is to be able to take action against recalcitrant members it must be able to do so without fear that it will be sued for damages should, for instance, a suspended member be prevented from working but ultimately cleared from wrongdoing.

Lloyd's believes that a newly formed council's effectiveness as a regulatory body would be greatly impaired without this kind of immunity, although it has conceded that members should be able to sue for damages resulting from clerical error attributable to Lloyd's.

Further Lloyd's has argued that it is ultimately the members who make up the Lloyd's community who have to bear the losses if a member just goes bankrupt. This is inconsistent with the spirit of the market where members undertake the risk of losses "each for his own part and not one for another."

Opponents of immunity, however, fear that it would place Lloyd's above the law and put to the Sasse affair where the members of the Sasse syndicate, which was suspended, facing losses of more than £20m, sued Lloyd's claiming that market system was at fault. A compromise deal was worked out under which the Lloyd's community footed the bill for more than £15m of the losses.

The immunity clause has already been modified during the course of the Bill through parliament, and the Meacher Committee rejected the original open-ended proposals which would have left it to the Lloyd's committee to draw up immunities under by-laws. Instead the Meacher Committee insisted that the immunities should be specifically stated in the Bill.

However, Lloyd's committee says Mr Peter Miller, who has made enough compromises and it is not prepared to budge again.

So as the Bill heads for the next stage, the behind-the-scenes meetings and lobbying continue, and Lloyd's committee is still trying to push it through and those trying to prevent it. Those who feel the Bill is all or partly along the right lines and those who feel that any new Bill will only lead to a further erosion of the market's freedom of choice.

If the Bill does reach the statute books there is still no guarantee that a new Lloyd's council will use its new found powers effectively. But if the Bill does not the issue of regulation at Lloyd's will be thrust back in the hands of the Government, a prospect unlikely to appeal to anyone in the market.

In the meantime while it is still too much to expect total agreement from any institution with 20,000 members, there is little doubt that the reputation of Lloyd's has not been enhanced by the squabbling and disagreement which has surfaced during the last few years. There are many in the market who will breathe a sigh of relief when the battle over the Bill has been finally resolved.

Business Editor

Borrowing on course

After the overshoots of the past couple of years it looks as if the government's original estimate for the public sector borrowing requirement (£10,600m) will prove rather closer to the mark this time round. Not as we already know, that the government is fully on top of its spending targets this year, but the day seems set to be saved by steadily improving rather than bogging out than expected.

For the first nine months the PSBR comes out at just over £9,700m, a figure inflated by about £1,000m as a result of the civil servants' disruption of tax revenue last year. Of the £3,000m itself, £500m or so relates to additional interest charges sustained as a result of the delay in receiving tax revenue, and the remainder to revenue still owing.

The last quarter is never that easy to predict, largely because of uncertainties relating to local authorities and public corporations. This year, for instance, the full year local authority borrowing requirement remains roughly in balance.

When the Chancellor comes to present his Budget he will not, of course, know the full-year borrowing with total precision. That may be just as well. For though some analysts still expect the full-year figure to overshoot, marginally, others are looking for an undershoot. Presumably, it would be far more convenient for the Chancellor to be able to announce tax cuts and show a significant cut in next year's PSBR when he sets out his strategy on March 4.

Oil taxation. Change needed

With little more than a month to go to the Budget, there are two things that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has to decide about the current North Sea oil taxation regime. One is whether the overall burden of taxation is too high. The other is whether the whole fiscal system is in need of a thorough overhaul, to account of the changed circumstances since the North Sea first came on stream six-and-a-half years ago.

The second question is much easier to answer than the first. Even the most ardent critic of the oil industry is unable to deny that the current four-decade system of oil-shore oil taxation (royalty, special petroleum duty, petroleum revenue tax, corporation tax) is a cumbersome and inefficient. The great merit of the latest oil tax submission, from two academics at Aberdeen University, is that it is spelled out in a clear and concise way, just how anachronistic the present regime has become.

It is clearly absurd, for example, that the tax regime should make it more profitable for an oil company with one major field under its belt to develop a nearby "satellite" discovery, as a separate (and therefore more expensive) operation when it could be more cheaply developed by being tied in with the existing production facilities. Yet that is what the current tax regime, in several instances, effectively encourages.

The truth is that the oil price explosion during 1979 and 1980 has rendered the original North Sea tax arrangements obsolete. Last year's temporary expedient of a crude tax on revenue, the Special Petroleum duty, was acknowledged by the Chancellor to be a less than perfect attempt to cream off some of the windfall profits generated by the oil price rises.

If the Chancellor can persuade the Inland Revenue to carry out the necessary restructuring, there is no question that he should scrap the existing

cumbersome system and replace it with a single coherent tax on profits. Only then can he ensure that the nation (as represented by the taxpayer) is collecting the maximum economic rent from the North Sea. The Institute of Fiscal Studies, and now the Aberdeen University team, have suggested schemes that in theory will go a long way towards meeting these ends — without endangering the amount of revenue the Treasury receives from the North Sea.

Is it too much to hope that these ideas can be pursued? This year, probably yes. Despite the cries of "wolf" from the oil companies, there is little concrete evidence so far that the oil companies are paying more, en masse, than they can afford, or are willing to pay — for the right to exploit off-shore oil reserves. If they are (and there was no one more convinced last year that they were not than Mr Nigel Lawson, then a Treasury minister and now Energy Secretary), then the excess is only marginal.

German steel Re-alignment

The deal announced yesterday between Krupp, Stahl and Essel represents a major reconstruction of the ailing West German steel industry, albeit that the merging of the companies' bulk steel interests does not go as far as the Bonn government would have wished. The government wanted to put together Krupp, Hoehns and the publicly-owned Salzgitter.

However, the new Ruhr-stahl will become the second largest steel producer, just behind Thyssen, making about 12 million metric tonnes a year.

The merger is, of course, the result of a long and bitter battle hit by plummeting demand, especially from the construction industry, and West German steel-makers continually complain at the large subsidies poured by the British and French governments into their competing industries. Thyssen's world-wide steel interests lost £1.7m last year after a £25m profit previously. Losses have continued into the first quarter of this year and £100m plus rights issue is planned. In 1981, Thyssen lost £13 on every tonne of steel produced. A price rise of £22 per tonne should help Thyssen into the black, while the merger will enable it to fit in a leaner group for the challenges of recession and subsidised competition.

Anyone waiting doom for the jobbing system in the balance sheet, but the sort of drastic restructuring is currently being contemplated by many sections of the City. In its latest trading period Smith was caught by the switching of institutional attention to overseas markets and to interest rates. London equities were out of fashion. Also Smith is particularly associated with South Sea shares, another poor market, and the period took in last September's "Black Monday" when the index plummeted and then recovered equally sharply.

Just to show that the conditions in the first half of the year were unusual Smith has only cut the dividend by half. Conditions so far in the second half are much improved, though it is too early to say if the dividend could be restored as the year end.

The half-year loss is not large in terms of the group's balance sheet. But the sort of score given by "Black Monday" and the cost of running books with the continuing high level of interest rates may help other run books that allow for healthy markets.

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High	Low	Current	Price Chg	Open (1981)	Vol	% Actual	P/R	Full Yield
123.00	100.00	ABN Edge 10% CLS 121	—	10.0	8.3	—	—	—
75.00	62.00	Alparing Group	70	—	4.7	6.7	11.1	15.4
21.00	12.00	Amalgamated	45	—	4.3	9.6	3.8	8.5
205.00	187.00	Bacal-BB	204	—	5.0	4.8	9.9	12.1
104.00	77.00	Debra Services	77	-2.0	6.0	7.8	3.8	7.2
130.00	97.00	Frank Hovell	128	—	6.4	5.0	11.5	23.7
78.00	38.00	Frederick Parker	78	—	1.7	2.2	33.9	—
78.00	46.00	George Blair	50	—	—	—	—	—
302.00	35.00	IPC	96	+1.0	7.3	7.6	6.9	10.4
105.00	100.00	Isa Corp Ltd	105	—	15.7	15.0	—	—
112.00	95.00	Jackson Group	95	—	7.0	7.4	3.0	6.7
130.00	105.00	James Hargreaves	112	—	3.2	7.8	8.2	10.3
24.00	22.00	Robert Jenkins	22	—	31.5	12.5	3.5	8.8
55.00	51.00	Spartans A	55	—	5.3	5.6	8.5	9.9
222.00	164.00	Torday & Carlisle	164	-1.0	10.7	6.5	5.3	7.4
15.00	10.00	Twinlock Ltd	13	—	—	—	—	—
80.00	66.00	Twinlock 15% VLS	78	—	15.0	19.7	—	—
44.00	27.00	Unidock Holdings	27	—	3.0	11.1	4.8	8.2
103.00	75.00	Waters Alexander	75	—	6.4	8.5	4.9	8.7
223.00	212.00	W. S. Yeats	218	—	13.1	6.0	4.1	8.4

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هكذا في الأصل

Law Report February 5 1982 House of Lords

Award over frustrated oil deal upheld

BP Exploration Co (Libya) Ltd v Hunt
Before Lord Wilberforce, Lord Diplock, Lord Keith of Kilmuir, Lord Scarman and Lord Brandon of Oakbrook
(Speeches delivered February 4)

The House of Lords, in what was said to be the first contested case brought under the Law Reform (Frustrated Contracts) Act 1943, held that where one party to a contract made in 1960 involving an oil concession in Libya, had obtained a valuable benefit from the other party before the contract was frustrated by the political acts of the revolutionary Libyan government in 1971, the court should award the benefit to the party who obtained it, and not to the other party.

Section 1(3) of the 1943 Act provides: "Where a contract has been frustrated, the court may order that the parties shall be restored to the position in which they were before the contract was made, or that the parties shall be treated as if the contract had never been made, or that the parties shall be treated as if the contract had been made on different terms." The court found that the contract was frustrated by the political acts of the revolutionary Libyan government in 1971, and that the court should award the benefit to the party who obtained it, and not to the other party.

By section 2(3), "Where any contract to which this Act applies contains any provision which, upon the frustration of the contract, is intended to have effect in the event of circumstances arising which operate, or are intended to operate, to frustrate the contract, or is intended to have effect in the event of circumstances arising which operate, or are intended to operate, to frustrate the contract, the court may order that the parties shall be treated as if the contract had never been made, or that the parties shall be treated as if the contract had been made on different terms." The court found that the contract was frustrated by the political acts of the revolutionary Libyan government in 1971, and that the court should award the benefit to the party who obtained it, and not to the other party.

Mr Robert Alexander, QC, Mr Nicholas Lyell, QC and Mr Peregrine Simon for Mr Hunt; Mr Kenneth Kekell, QC, Mr William Miligan and Mr R. G. Wood for BP.

LORD BRANDON said that in May 1975, BP began an action against Mr Nelson Bunker Hunt and Mr Kenneth Kekell, who were partners in the oil company, Hunt Oil Co. The contract was made between Hunt and BP in 1960 for the sharing of a non-partnership basis of an oil concession granted to Hunt in Libya, had been frustrated as a result of the expropriation by the Libyan government of BP's share in the concession. BP claimed that a contract governed by English law, made between Hunt and BP in 1960 for the sharing of a non-partnership basis of an oil concession granted to Hunt in Libya, had been frustrated as a result of the expropriation by the Libyan government of BP's share in the concession. BP claimed that a contract governed by English law, made between Hunt and BP in 1960 for the sharing of a non-partnership basis of an oil concession granted to Hunt in Libya, had been frustrated as a result of the expropriation by the Libyan government of BP's share in the concession.

The grounds of appeal to the House were limited to two points. The first important one was that having regard to the terms of the contract between the parties and

the circumstances surrounding its making, the judge was wrong to order Hunt to pay BP under the 1943 Act any principal sum at all.

The second subsidiary point was whether if the judge was wrong to order Hunt to pay BP any principal sum under the 1943 Act, he was wrong to order also the payment of interest on those sums, either at all or in any case from a date as early as June 14, 1974.

The facts relevant to the appeal were that in December 1957 the Libyan government granted Hunt a concession, to explore for oil in, and extract any oil found in, a specified area of the Libyan desert, for a period of 50 years; and drilling for oil was required to be begun within three years.

In June 1960, Hunt, who did not possess the resources and experience necessary to explore and develop the concession himself, concluded what was known in the oil industry as a "farm-in" agreement with BP, who did. It consisted of two documents, "the letter agreement" and "the operating agreement".

The main terms of the contract were that Hunt was to assign to BP, subject to the Libyan government's consent, a half share in his concession. BP was to make Hunt its agent, to develop and operate the whole concession entirely from its own resources and at its own expense. BP was to make Hunt its agent, to develop and operate the whole concession entirely from its own resources and at its own expense. BP was to make Hunt its agent, to develop and operate the whole concession entirely from its own resources and at its own expense.

It appeared that that was done as an act of political retaliation against the British government, and not on account of any complaints against BP itself. By that date BP had received from

Hunt, by way of reimbursement in respect of benefits conferred on him by BP prior to the concession, some 33,101,811 barrels of oil.

On June 11, 1973, the Libyan government expropriated Hunt's half share of the concession also. Between December 7, 1971 when BP's half share was expropriated, and June 11, 1973, when Hunt's half share suffered the same fate, Hunt had obtained 74 million barrels of oil from the concession.

Both BP and Hunt obtained compensation from the Libyan government for the expropriation of their respective shares in the concession, but the amount was substantially less in each case. It was not in dispute that the farm-in agreement of July 1960, was frustrated by the Libyan government's expropriation of Hunt's half share in the concession. It followed, since the agreement was governed by English law, that the rights and liabilities of the parties following such frustration depended on the application of the relevant provisions and in particular section 1(3) of the 1943 Act to the particular circumstances of the case.

The main point for Hunt was that, having regard to the terms of the contract, and the surrounding circumstances, the judge was wrong to order Hunt to pay BP any principal sum under section 1 of the Act at all.

The argument for Hunt was that the contract was frustrated by the political acts of the revolutionary Libyan government in 1971, and that the court should award the benefit to the party who obtained it, and not to the other party. The court found that the contract was frustrated by the political acts of the revolutionary Libyan government in 1971, and that the court should award the benefit to the party who obtained it, and not to the other party.

It appeared that that was done as an act of political retaliation against the British government, and not on account of any complaints against BP itself. By that date BP had received from

Nor could his Lordship see any good reason why, on the footing that the parties were not shown to have had in contemplation the frustration of the contract by the materialization of the political risks concerned, or to have provided in the contract for the consequences if such frustration occurred, the other contract in the case should make it unjust, for the purposes of section 1(2) or (3) of the Act, to make such an award.

On the second question whether the judge was right to order the payment of interest on the principal sum awarded under the 1943 Act at all, and if so whether he was right to order such interest to run from a date as early as June 14, 1974, the court found that the judge was right to order the payment of interest on the principal sum awarded under the 1943 Act at all, and if so whether he was right to order such interest to run from a date as early as June 14, 1974.

His Lordship did not accept that submission. The words "any debt or damages" in their contract were very wide, and they covered any sum of money recoverable by one party from another, either at common law or in equity or under any statute of the kind here concerned. Accordingly the judge had power to order the payment of interest on the principal sum awarded by him.

As to the date from which interest was ordered to run, the court found that the judge was right to order the payment of interest on the principal sum awarded under the 1943 Act at all, and if so whether he was right to order such interest to run from a date as early as June 14, 1974.

The argument for Hunt was that the contract was frustrated by the political acts of the revolutionary Libyan government in 1971, and that the court should award the benefit to the party who obtained it, and not to the other party. The court found that the contract was frustrated by the political acts of the revolutionary Libyan government in 1971, and that the court should award the benefit to the party who obtained it, and not to the other party.

It appeared that that was done as an act of political retaliation against the British government, and not on account of any complaints against BP itself. By that date BP had received from

Cricket

Indian tour exposes England's frailty for Australia next winter

From Richard Streeton
Kanpur, Feb 4

The saddest fact about England's unimpressive visit to India during the past three months has been that so many problems had to be resolved before next winter's Australian tour.

Seven or eight of Fletcher's side could have so far as to say in defending the Ashes, England's bowling is a particular worry. This aspect far transcends the defeat by India in the Test series, disappointing though this was.

England failed in the Test series because of one subject batting performance that cost them the first Test match in Bombay. Those two fatal blows that England's batting took were the most for the rest of the tour. India then sat on their lead for the remaining five matches, which was not too hard to do on over-powered pitches which left the bowlers innocuous.

Remembering, also, the lamentable overcast that barely reached 13 an hour, it is possible that this may be ranked the dullest series since the administrators, in their anxiety for profit, decreed that six Tests rather than five should become the norm.

Fortunately, there were several moments of good cricket during the first four days of each successive day and the matches were not quite as dreadful to watch as they must have been to follow at long range.

None of this, however, should detract from the fact that India proved themselves a better team. In their last four home series since 1978-79, India have won against Pakistan, Australia, Pakistan and England. They still lack a truly fast bowler, but otherwise are remarkably well equipped to take on the best of the world.

Meanwhile, it is a moot point whether England would have been better served by younger players. There were several players in India this winter whose better days were behind them rather than ahead.

It was predictable that Fletcher, recalled after a five-year gap, should have chosen to play a more conservative line. However, there is less than time for the considerable rebuilding that has to be done this summer by the selectors.

In the absence of contenders from the younger school, Fletcher has been forced to choose from the older players. He has chosen to play a more conservative line, but he has also chosen to play a more aggressive line.

Fletcher's own form, and close



Kapil Dev: Hundred in 81 balls.

fielding in front of the wicket could not be criticized and he batted the side ably in the first Test match in Bombay. He might have been a more aggressive batsman, but he was also a very good batsman. He was a very good batsman, and he was a very good batsman.

Among the batsmen, Gooch overcame a wretched start and played some telling innings, and Tavaré more than continued the promising start he made against Australia. It will be interesting to see if Tavaré is asked to play in the second Test match in Kanpur.

Gooch, who got his head down through a really sizable score, ended his innings with a successful run in every respect, and his figures on the day were 118 for 11. He was a very good batsman, and he was a very good batsman.

Only Bottom remains to be mentioned. The extent to which England continue to rely on his efforts with both bat and ball was almost breathtaking. His commitment and his skill for hard work were never more evident.

Finally, a word about umpiring. I believe England were wrong to make an issue about the umpiring standards. The umpires were very good, and they were very good.

There must now be doubts as to whether Dilly is a good enough batsman to play in the second Test match in Kanpur. He was a very good batsman, and he was a very good batsman.

Underwood could not always be relied upon to perform well, and his batting was less than satisfactory. He was a very good batsman, and he was a very good batsman.

Something to savour for vultures and Kapil

From Richard Streeton
Kanpur, Feb 4

A century by Kapil Dev in 81 balls, one of the fastest in Test match history, made the final day of the sixth Test eminently more watchable than was expected. There was, of course, no pressure on Kapil Dev but England rightly paid him the respect of bowling at a staid and full commitment.

It was an innings marked by marvellous power and clean striking of the ball and could also be regarded as a final, celebratory salvo as India's 1-0 victory was inked over in the record books. It was first entered in pencil last December in Bombay and has been inevitable ever since.

A full house, of some 50,000, was present to enjoy the closing rites as England were officially bailed out of success in a Test rivalry for the fourth time in their five visits to this country. For a man who never misses the chance to stress that he is a bowler and that batting merely comes as a necessary evil, Kapil Dev was not at all bashful in his celebration. He was a very good batsman, and he was a very good batsman.

Morning fog prevented play before tea and delayed the total time in this game to almost 10 hours. When play did start, aggressive bowling by Willis ensured over the cricket was not as dead as it might have seemed to a flock of vultures hovering not far above.

England and a new ball straightaway—though it only lasted five overs before having to be changed for another—and Willis typically put his heart and soul into his use. Viswanath square-cut the day's first ball for four, gave cover, took a catch from the third, attempting the same stroke; then Mahabadi was left before the stumps. When Willis had taken a century, his first 21 balls had brought him three for seven.

But Yasopal Sharma, who says in all three Tests, has been the most effective bowler. He was a very good batsman, and he was a very good batsman.

England's first innings: 378 for 10. India's first innings: 241 for 10. England's second innings: 241 for 10. India's second innings: 241 for 10. England's third innings: 241 for 10. India's third innings: 241 for 10.

England's fourth innings: 241 for 10. India's fourth innings: 241 for 10. England's fifth innings: 241 for 10. India's fifth innings: 241 for 10. England's sixth innings: 241 for 10. India's sixth innings: 241 for 10.

England's seventh innings: 241 for 10. India's seventh innings: 241 for 10. England's eighth innings: 241 for 10. India's eighth innings: 241 for 10. England's ninth innings: 241 for 10. India's ninth innings: 241 for 10.

England's tenth innings: 241 for 10. India's tenth innings: 241 for 10. England's eleventh innings: 241 for 10. India's eleventh innings: 241 for 10. England's twelfth innings: 241 for 10. India's twelfth innings: 241 for 10.

England's thirteenth innings: 241 for 10. India's thirteenth innings: 241 for 10. England's fourteenth innings: 241 for 10. India's fourteenth innings: 241 for 10. England's fifteenth innings: 241 for 10. India's fifteenth innings: 241 for 10.

England's sixteenth innings: 241 for 10. India's sixteenth innings: 241 for 10. England's seventeenth innings: 241 for 10. India's seventeenth innings: 241 for 10. England's eighteenth innings: 241 for 10. India's eighteenth innings: 241 for 10.

England's nineteenth innings: 241 for 10. India's nineteenth innings: 241 for 10. England's twentieth innings: 241 for 10. India's twentieth innings: 241 for 10. England's twenty-first innings: 241 for 10. India's twenty-first innings: 241 for 10.

England's twenty-second innings: 241 for 10. India's twenty-second innings: 241 for 10. England's twenty-third innings: 241 for 10. India's twenty-third innings: 241 for 10. England's twenty-fourth innings: 241 for 10. India's twenty-fourth innings: 241 for 10.

England's twenty-fifth innings: 241 for 10. India's twenty-fifth innings: 241 for 10. England's twenty-sixth innings: 241 for 10. India's twenty-sixth innings: 241 for 10. England's twenty-seventh innings: 241 for 10. India's twenty-seventh innings: 241 for 10.

England's twenty-eighth innings: 241 for 10. India's twenty-eighth innings: 241 for 10. England's twenty-ninth innings: 241 for 10. India's twenty-ninth innings: 241 for 10. England's thirtieth innings: 241 for 10. India's thirtieth innings: 241 for 10.

England's thirty-first innings: 241 for 10. India's thirty-first innings: 241 for 10. England's thirty-second innings: 241 for 10. India's thirty-second innings: 241 for 10. England's thirty-third innings: 241 for 10. India's thirty-third innings: 241 for 10.

England's thirty-fourth innings: 241 for 10. India's thirty-fourth innings: 241 for 10. England's thirty-fifth innings: 241 for 10. India's thirty-fifth innings: 241 for 10. England's thirty-sixth innings: 241 for 10. India's thirty-sixth innings: 241 for 10.

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England's fortieth innings: 241 for 10. India's fortieth innings: 241 for 10. England's forty-first innings: 241 for 10. India's forty-first innings: 241 for 10. England's forty-second innings: 241 for 10. India's forty-second innings: 241 for 10.

England's forty-third innings: 241 for 10. India's forty-third innings: 241 for 10. England's forty-fourth innings: 241 for 10. India's forty-fourth innings: 241 for 10. England's forty-fifth innings: 241 for 10. India's forty-fifth innings: 241 for 10.

England's forty-sixth innings: 241 for 10. India's forty-sixth innings: 241 for 10. England's forty-seventh innings: 241 for 10. India's forty-seventh innings: 241 for 10. England's forty-eighth innings: 241 for 10. India's forty-eighth innings: 241 for 10.

England's forty-ninth innings: 241 for 10. India's forty-ninth innings: 241 for 10. England's fiftieth innings: 241 for 10. India's fiftieth innings: 241 for 10. England's fifty-first innings: 241 for 10. India's fifty-first innings: 241 for 10.

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England's sixty-first innings: 241 for 10. India's sixty-first innings: 241 for 10. England's sixty-second innings: 241 for 10. India's sixty-second innings: 241 for 10. England's sixty-third innings: 241 for 10. India's sixty-third innings: 241 for 10.

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England's seventieth innings: 241 for 10. India's seventieth innings: 241 for 10. England's seventy-first innings: 241 for 10. India's seventy-first innings: 241 for 10. England's seventy-second innings: 241 for 10. India's seventy-second innings: 241 for 10.

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England's hundredth innings: 241 for 10. India's hundredth innings: 241 for 10. England's hundredth and first innings: 241 for 10. India's hundredth and first innings: 241 for 10. England's hundredth and second innings: 241 for 10. India's hundredth and second innings: 241 for 10.

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
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Edited by Peter Daville

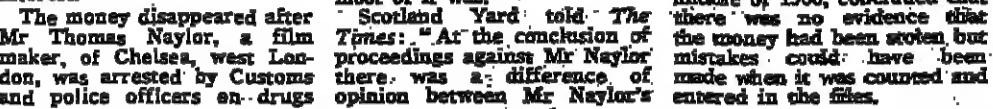
BBC 1	BBC 2	ITV/LONDON	Radio 4	Radio 3	Radio 2	
<p>9.00 For Schools, Colleges: Today's subjects are: Biology: Better Behaviour; Look and Read; It's Maths; Maths Film; Hymn of the Week (for Welsh viewers); Talkabout; and Plants in Action (one parent families); 12.30 News After Noon; with Richard Whimmore and Miro Sturt; 12.57 Financial report. And news headlines; 1.00 Pobble Mill at One; Peter Scobbrook's gardening feature; and another of the Living with Leisure items on sports and pastimes; 1.45 Bagpuss; for the very young; 2.02 For Schools, Colleges: Personal View (with Claire Rayner) and A Good Job with Prospects; 3.00 Closedown; 3.20 Pobble y Cwm (serial, in Welsh, the third episode); 3.55 Play School (see BBC 2, 11.00am).</p> <p>4.20 Captain Caveman: cartoon.</p> <p>4.30 Think Again: The seven ages of Johnny (Johnny Ball).</p> <p>4.55 Grange Hill: comprehensive school serial. Episode 10. What happened on Belinda's and Annette's exploration.</p> <p>5.20 The Amazing Adventures of Morph: with Tony Hart (1); 25 episodes to date. Morph and Woodhouse: John Alderton tells the story of Morph and his friends.</p> <p>5.40 News: with Richard Baker; 6.00 South East at Six; And, at 6.22, Nationwide, including Sportsweek; 6.45.</p> <p>7.00 The Supertank: Third half of the chase for the Ferguson Men's Championship. The contestants include pole vaulter Brian Hooper and England Rugby Union full-back Marcus Rose. There's also Wales and English Lions centre-half Terry Holmes and European and World Games karate gold medalist Vic Charles.</p> <p>8.00 Fame is the Spur: Part five. Polling day in the by-election. But wouldn't Arnold's victory actually be Hamer's?</p> <p>8.50 Points of View: with Barry Took and a selection of viewers' letters.</p>	<p>11.00 Play School: Cynthia Felgate's story. Other than the 11.25 News; 11.55 Arguing with Allister; Peter Allister and Michael Parkinson chat as they play golf (1).</p> <p>Miriam Stoppard: BBC 2, 6.40</p> <p>4.30 Flying High: History of aviation in the West. Final film in the series (1).</p> <p>5.00 World Skiing Championships: Ladies' slalom and Men's combined downhill. From Schladming.</p> <p>5.40 Film: Sherlock Holmes and the Spider Woman (1944). A super sleuth and his bumbling companion versus a dreaded adversary (Grace Soderpand). With Basil Rathbone, Nigel Bruce.</p> <p>6.40 Heroes: Dr Miriam Stoppard's idols include Grace Darling and Alan Alda.</p> <p>7.10 Oxford Road Show: Live, from Manchester.</p> <p>7.50 News.</p> <p>7.55 In the Country: Angela Rippon and Tony Soper on St Michael's Mount in Cornwall.</p> <p>8.25 Newsweek: What can the West do about Poland's shattered economy? Keith Kyle reports.</p>	<p>9.35 For Schools: The subjects are: Reading with Lenny; How We Live to Live; 1-2-3-Go; Physics in Action; Geography Today; Alive and Kicking; Stop, Look, and Listen; Documentary Return (film in the East); 11.55 Comic Strip; 12.00 A Handful of Songs; 12.10 Once Upon a Time; Noisy Neighbours; 12.30 Simply Sewing: Making a bathing-sleeved dress (1); 1.00 News; 1.20 Themes area news; 1.30 Take the High Road: Scottish estate serial; 2.00 After Noon Plus; with Elaine Grant and Simon Reed; 2.45 Film: where the Bullies Fly (1966) British-made spy comedy with Tom Adams as the secret agent who takes on a gang that are a formula for a nuclear-powered plane. With Dawn Addams, Sidney James, Wilfred Brambell.</p> <p>4.15 Dangermouse: British-made cartoon serial; 4.30 Razzamajazz: Pop music show, with Gary Numan and Dance Class.</p> <p>4.45 Jokes of Pizzadilly: Comedy thriller serial. Final episode of The Case of the Arabian Kidnap. With Nigel Hawthorne (1); 5.15 Square One: The Joe Brown board game. With Ian Brooks Taylor and Floella Benjamin.</p> <p>5.45 News; 6.00 The Six O'Clock Show: Current Affairs with a light touch. With Michael Aspel and Janet Street-Porter. Fred Housego looks after the traffic reports and local news presented by Rita Carter and Andrew Gardner.</p> <p>7.00 Family Fortunes: The Jones's from Swansea (1) play the Forestville from Barton-El-Cay, Beds.</p> <p>7.30 Hawaii Five-O: Drama about a troublesome widow and a missing girl. With Jack Lord as the private eye (1).</p> <p>8.30 Shine on Harvey Moon: Harvey (Kenneth Cranham) invites his son's teacher (Fiona Victor) out to dinner and his wife Rita (Meggle Steed) is beaten up.</p>	<p>6.00 News Briefing.</p> <p>6.10 Farming Today.</p> <p>6.25 Yesterday in Parliament.</p> <p>6.30 News.</p> <p>6.45 Desert Island Discs. Castaway: Paul McCartney.</p> <p>6.55 Feedback: Your views on BBC TV and Radio. Presented by Tim Verdon.</p> <p>10.00 News.</p> <p>10.02 International Assignment.</p> <p>10.03 Daily Service.</p> <p>10.04 Morning Story: "The Bridge" by H. E. Bates. The reader is Shirley Dixon.</p> <p>11.00 News.</p> <p>11.05 Great Families of Britain. A series of radio portraits (3) The Noble House of Howard.</p> <p>11.30 The Week of the Week: The great it.</p> <p>12.00 News.</p> <p>12.02 You and Yours.</p> <p>12.07 My World?</p> <p>12.15 Weather.</p> <p>1.00 The World at One.</p> <p>1.01 The Archers.</p> <p>1.02 News.</p> <p>2.02 Woman's Hour. Includes the recollections of a royal pearly chaff, Colin Aherne.</p> <p>3.00 Play "Short Madness" by David Low; with John L. Macfarlane and Elizabeth Bell.</p> <p>4.05 Poetry Pleasure.</p> <p>4.15 Modern French Writers (2) ANY (any) magazine.</p> <p>4.45 Story Time: "Marital Rites" by Margaret Forster (10).</p> <p>5.00 News.</p> <p>5.55 Weather.</p> <p>6.00 News and Financial Report.</p> <p>6.30 Report: The travel and transport scene.</p> <p>7.00 News.</p> <p>7.05 The Archers.</p> <p>7.15 News.</p> <p>8.10 Profile. A personal portrait.</p> <p>8.30 Any Questions? With Lord Renshaw. Malcolm Muggeridge. John Mortimer and Jackie Jackson.</p>	<p>6.15 Letter from America.</p> <p>6.30 Radio 4. Includes an item on the Dams. Edna Everidge Show at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.</p> <p>6.50 News.</p> <p>10.00 The World Tonight.</p> <p>10.05 Book Ending.</p> <p>11.00 A Book of Bedtime: "Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man" by James Joyce (15).</p> <p>11.15 The Financial World Tonight.</p> <p>11.20 In Parliament.</p> <p>11.30 John Eddon delivers into the BBC Sound Archives.</p> <p>12.00 News.</p> <p>VHF: 6.25 Weather, 9.05 For Schools, 10.30 Listen, With Mother, 11.00 For Schools, 2.00 For Schools, 5.50 PM (continued), 11.00 Study On 4</p>	<p>6.55 Weather.</p> <p>7.00 News.</p> <p>7.05 Morning Concert. Roy Harris. Chabrier, Turin; records.</p> <p>8.00 News.</p> <p>8.05 Morning Concert (continued). Bach, Lully, Haydn; records.</p> <p>9.05 This Week's Composers. Attributed to the composer. 9.15 Melos Quartet of Stuttgart. Recital: Mendelssohn, Shostakovich, Schubert.</p> <p>11.20 Very Old and Very New. Concert: anon. Arvo Part, anon. Ludwig Sont, anon. Roger Marshall.</p> <p>12.15 Midday Concert. Part 1: Mozart, Hummel.</p> <p>1.00 News.</p> <p>1.05 News.</p> <p>1.20 Midday Concert. Part 2: Brahms (Symphony No. 3).</p> <p>2.05 Cello and Piano. Recital: John Kennedy, Martinus, Debussy and</p>	<p>5.00am Ray Moore, 7.30 Terry Wogan, 10.00 Jimmy Young, 12.00 Gloria Hunniford, 2.00pam Ed Stewart, 4.00 David Hamilton, 5.45 News and Sport, 6.00 John Dunn, 8.00 Sequences Time, 8.45 Friday Night is Music Night, 10.00 Listen to L.S., 10.30 Anything for a Laugh.</p>

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1 MF 1053kHz/285m or 1089kHz/275m. Radio 2 MF 693kHz/433m or 908kHz/330m. Radio 3 VHF 90.9MHz, M 1215kHz/247m. Radio 4 LF 200kHz/1500m and VHF 92.95MHz. Greater London Area MF 720kHz/170m. BBC Radio London MF 1458kHz/200m and VHF 94.9MHz. World Service MF 648kHz/463m.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

BBC1	HTV WEST	CENTRAL	TSW
<p>BBC Cymru/Wales 12.57-1.00 News. 1.45-2.22 Corachod. 2.35-3.00 News. 3.20-3.55 Close Down. 4.55-5.00 News. 5.15-5.45 News. 5.55-6.00 News. 6.05-6.15 News. 6.20-6.30 News. 6.35-6.45 News. 6.50-7.00 News. 7.05-7.15 News. 7.20-7.30 News. 7.35-7.45 News. 7.50-8.00 News. 8.05-8.15 News. 8.20-8.30 News. 8.35-8.45 News. 8.50-9.00 News. 9.05-9.15 News. 9.20-9.30 News. 9.35-9.45 News. 9.50-10.00 News. 10.05-10.15 News. 10.20-10.30 News. 10.35-10.45 News. 10.50-11.00 News. 11.05-11.15 News. 11.20-11.30 News. 11.35-11.45 News. 11.50-12.00 News. 12.05-12.15 News. 12.20-12.30 News. 12.35-12.45 News. 12.50-1.00 News. 1.05-1.15 News. 1.20-1.30 News. 1.35-1.45 News. 1.50-2.00 News. 2.05-2.15 News. 2.20-2.30 News. 2.35-2.45 News. 2.50-3.00 News. 3.05-3.15 News. 3.20-3.30 News. 3.35-3.45 News. 3.50-4.00 News. 4.05-4.15 News. 4.20-4.30 News. 4.35-4.45 News. 4.50-5.00 News. 5.05-5.15 News. 5.20-5.30 News. 5.35-5.45 News. 5.50-6.00 News. 6.05-6.15 News. 6.20-6.30 News. 6.35-6.45 News. 6.50-7.00 News. 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□ **Brussels:** A credit squeeze on the Soviet Union; now seems inevitable. France made the difficult decision today to allow the EEC to recommend higher charges for Russian export credits negotiated through the OECD.



Asparagus	s 9 48	Jerusalem	c 1 34	Onion	ss 5 23	Toronto	
Broadbean	c 12 54	Kidney	ss 0 52	Onions		Tunis	s 18 4
Boston		Jerusalem		Paris	s 12 54	Valencia	c 12 5
Brussels	s 7 45	Lux Potatoes	s 19 55	Pasos	f 4 25	Vancouver	
Hubbard	s 5 42	Lisbon	f 15 39	Redskins	f 8 44	Venice	s 3 1
Calum		Lebanon	f 3 37	Rosettes	f 8 44	Vienna	s 2 5

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